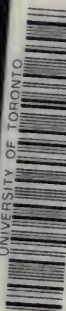


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THE IMPERIAL HERITAGE

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The Imperial Heritage

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AUTHOR OF "MADE IN GERMANY" "THE FOREIGNER"
IN THE FARMYARD" "MARCHING
BACKWARD" ETC

FULLY ILLUSTRATED



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To
WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY

Where shall the watchful Sun,
 England, my England,
Match the master-work you've done,
 England, my own?
When shall he rejoice agen
Such a breed of mighty men
As come forward, one to ten,
 To the Song on your bugles blown,
 England—
 Down the years on your bugles blown?

• • • • • •
They call you proud and hard,
 England, my England:
You with worlds to watch and ward,
 England, my own!
You whose mailed hand keeps the keys
Of such teeming destinies
You could know nor dread nor ease
 Were the Song on your bugles blown,
 England,
 Round the Pit on your bugles blown!

W. E. HENLEY.

Introduction

WHETHER the following pages are likely to be of some small use as a bird's-eye view of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, or whether they are absurdly futile to compass the task, I leave to my readers to determine. It needs but little study of the vast territory over which the Self-governing Colonies spread themselves—young giants of the World-Empire race—or of the fathomless wealth—actual or potential—lying within their dominions, to realize how hopeless is the endeavour to give within the limits of a small volume even a shadowy, panoramic view of the British Empire's glorious inheritance. All I can hope to accomplish in this book is to make of it a finger-post, to direct the eyes of Englishmen to the vast realms to which as English citizens they are heirs.

In so doing this little volume may serve also the purpose of putting heart into the despondent

Englishman, who watches the growth in these latter days of rival empires, and his Motherland's industrial sway crumbling bit by bit, snapped up in the maws of eager competitors. It may help him to remember that mighty Daughter States are arising to uphold the honour of the House. In them let us put our trust.

Hitherto we have been contemptuously neglectful; but their affection and loyalty have never faltered, and the first steps towards welding the family ties more firmly, making a great House United that cannot fall, have been forced on by the Daughter States: truly a generous return for the Mother-country's ungenerous past.

England's unmotherly treatment of the Empire's young Provinces arose from two causes: ignorance the fruitful source of ill-doing; and a pinched, anæmic philosophy of political life, which now, as Little Englandism, is the world's laughing-stock, pending its final relegation to the lumber-room of the Dark Ages. But we still need more knowledge.

E. E. W.

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THE IMPERIAL HERITAGE

ENGLAND has awakened from her shameful lethargy. She no longer dreams that her Empire is bounded by the German Ocean and the English Channel. She is arousing to the reality that beyond the shores of Little England are vast realms which proudly call her Mother. She is grappling with the glorious fact that hers is the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, that her people are entering into an Imperial Heritage more magnificent than any that ever filled the wildest dreams of an Alexander or a Cæsar. To-day, happily, the

national attitude a bare generation since has become well-nigh unthinkable. Then the Imperial inheritance was thought nothing of by the people, was belittled by men who claimed to be patriots, was treated as a bore by statesmen. A Prime Minister, in the Sixties, lightly consented to wretched documents which forbade the drawing together in commercial ties of the Mother Country and her daughters. A few years later, when a statesman with vision gave the title of Empress to the First Lady of the Empire, the fact was made the occasion, by Englishmen, for cheap jocularities and fatuous lamentations. A certain few even affected to regard the word Englishman as a stigma.

No wonder, then, that the present generation has grown up in deplorable ignorance of its own Imperial birthright. The meagre, dry records of areas and latitudes learned at school were quickly forgotten, and the newspaper — manhood's school — steadily ignored the contemporary history of Greater Britain, con-

fined its most important events to small type and such odd corners as could be spared from sporting and criminal intelligence at home and political news from foreign countries: for your daily newspaper is too often the conscientious purveyor of the last generation's thoughts. But at last the spell of apathy has been broken, and it is no exaggeration to say—the utterance involves no manner of disrespect to the Empress Queen—that the Record Reign celebrations of 1897 owed their fervid enthusiasm largely to the awakening of the Imperialist spirit, whereof the presence of the Colonial troops and the Colonial statesmen, and the welcome accorded to them, were the outward and visible signs. But to sentiment must be added knowledge. At present there is among Englishmen blank ignorance concerning England's Possessions. Even intelligent men of affairs know as little of their own Empire as they do of the Empire of China, and they are not ashamed, nor do they regard them-

selves as uneducated by reason of this lack of knowledge. Tales are told of Ministers at the Colonial Office cheerfully confessing ignorance concerning the whereabouts of colonies with whose representatives they were in communication. But this amazing manifestation of Little Englandism, at any rate, may now be relegated to the disgraceful past.

The official mind, however, still hangs on to remnants of the old bad modes of thought. The glorious Empire overseas is still an aggregation of "Colonies"—as though the Empire outside Great Britain were represented only by a few handfuls of poverty-stricken settlers in backwoods and desert wilds. That we have not yet found a better name for those vast continents and countries, peopled by millions of Englishmen, is in itself significant of the long distance the Mother Country has yet to travel ere she will arrive at an intelligent conception of the majesty of her own inheritance.

Have you ever felt the fascination of a map of any part of the British Empire? If you have not, get hold of the first map—the bigger



AN EARLY FAMILY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

(From a sketch by Governor King.)

the better—of any portion of the Empire (it matters not which), and just pore over it. The sheet before you will grow into an entrancing dream of seas and islands, of moun-

tains and lakes, of rivers and plains, of vast expanses, and of horizons limited only by the visual powers of the imagination. Your eyes will linger over the tortuous lines which indicate rivers, maybe giant streams such as the stay-at-home man has never looked on, tumbling over rocks in boiling rapids, or flowing lazily to the ocean through wide lagoons. You will look at the "herring-bone" etchings which denote mountain ranges—great peaks and magnificent rolling downs—of whose very existence you were, perhaps, in ignorance; mountains in comparison with which the noblest ranges in Wales or Scotland become almost insignificant. Here and there the normal colour of the map will be broken by patches of pale blue, and they will bring before your vision great wastes of water, full of strange fish, haunted by strange birds, the vast watery expanses fit embodiments of the primeval silence amongst which they repose. On the blue-tinted side of the map which re-

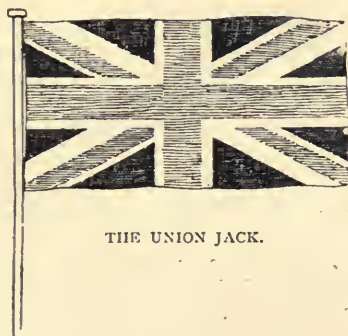
presents ocean are myriad specks, which conjure up refreshing pictures of green and peaceful, or ragged and chasm-scarred islands, perpetually washed by the sea's waves and purified by its breezes. From this panorama of Nature's majesty you turn almost with relief to the coloured patches and borders which betoken men's presence; for they show you that men do live in these remote regions, or at least have traversed them, dividing up the expanses into provinces and counties as at home. And over all the map are still more convincing proofs of human habitation—the names of towns and settlements. Strange names many of them, names given—who knows how many centuries since?—by aboriginal nations now vanished, or existing but in small or scattered remnants; but with greater frequency are sprinkled the familiar names of towns and villages at home. The two nomenclatures are a curious blend, and pathetically suggestive withal. They tell you, almost with

the explicitness of a history book, of Britons who have wandered to the ends of the earth in search of new homes or adventures, who have settled in strange and far-off places, and thence have turned wistful, home-sick eyes to the old familiar spots they have left behind.

You see here and there on the map thicker and straighter lines than those which indicate the presence of rivers. They are the railways, built, many of them, by the aid of English hands and brains and capital, denoting more than all else that the reign of primeval savagery in those regions is over. At first glance the romance in you may rise in rebellion against what may seem a prosaic desecration of the earth's wild places ; but reflection will show you how the spirit of romance may revel in, rather than recoil from, these crowning triumphs of indomitable pioneers. Finally, you become possessed of the glorious consciousness that through every part of these regions, and

of many more, the law of the Queen of England runs ; every wind that blows across these plains and mountains unfurls a Union Jack from its flagstaff ; the whole land is part of your Imperial heritage as a free-born English citizen.

Sitting in the arm-chairs of the Old Country



THE UNION JACK.

are querulous sentimentalists, who sniff at Imperialism, and ask, "By what right does England claim possession?" Philosophisings of this kind doubtless largely influenced the apostles of the old "Cut-the-painter" theory. And, truly, had we always followed strictly those ideal ethics which none of us can afford to practise

in individual life, but which some of us prate largely about in national life, those lands would never have been ours. They were won to us by bold pioneers—buccaneers, if you will—whose rough and primitive systems of ethics did not travel far beyond their duty to themselves and their country. But—at least in the case of many of them—what they conceived to be their duty to their country was more sedulously pursued than what they deemed their duty to themselves. To extend and consolidate the power of England they did not hesitate to sacrifice their own comfort, to endure terrible hardships, to risk their lives; and frequently they lost their lives. This much, at any rate, let the modern moralist take note of ere he condemn the makers of England's Empire for that, in devotion to their own nation, the pioneers did not always remember their duty to the savage peoples among whom they went. Furthermore, from the point of view of to-day, there is the best of all possible justifications:

if it were not England, it would be some other European power. 'Tis not a question of whether these lands shall be left under the sway of the so-called aboriginal tribes who owned them when the Englishmen first went there. (The term "aboriginal" is very largely an assumption. The native tribes lately existing in the colonised regions had probably themselves at some previous date been intruders and the exterminators of other tribes, and so on back to the beginning of human habitation.) The question is, whether they shall be ours or some other European Power's. Now, as the undeveloped estates of the world are inevitably to be cut up among the civilised races, certainly England has the best moral claim to possession in the eyes of all who value freedom and good government. Anyway, here we are. By whatever means or under whatever right we won the Empire, the fact remains that to-day that Empire is ours, and our plain duty, as well as our inestimable privilege, is to people it with

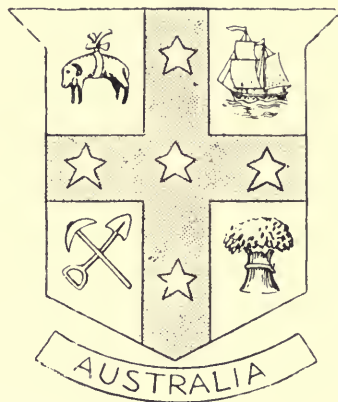
free men and to develop its wondrous resources to the very uttermost of our ability.

That development, in spite of all that has been accomplished, is as yet only begun, and it should not be uninteresting briefly to glance at the lines it is likely to, and should, take, and to enumerate a few of the possibilities before us.

Australasia

WHEN and by whom Australasia was first actually discovered cannot be ascertained. The Frenchmen claim the honour for De Gonneville in 1503 ; but what he probably saw was Java or New Guinea, or, as some say, Madagascar. Wrecked mariners from various countries probably found Australia's shores, and found at the same time their graves; for none ever returned to tell the tale. It seems certain, however, that a Dutchman sent to explore New Guinea landed, in 1605, on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula, the extreme northern point of the continent, and Duyfhen Point is called after the name of his vessel to this day. But he seems to have hurried back to Java, and to have paid no further heed to

his discovery. At various other times during the seventeenth century Dutchmen (usually by inadvertence) touched different points of the unknown continent. The first Englishman to reach it was William Dampier, a mutineering seaman, who struck it unawares at the begin-



ning of 1688, and in 1699 returned in charge of a vessel commissioned by the British Admiralty to glean what information he could; but his adverse report discouraged his countrymen from further exploration. And until Captain Cook reached Botany Bay in 1770 no English-

man who could avoid it appears to have landed on Australian shores. Frenchmen and Dutchmen may have made their very casual trips before that time, but England was the first nation to attempt colonisation, and English the continent has always remained. Even to-day, notwithstanding that hosts of emigrants all through the century have been swarming from Europe to the new lands, fully 95 per cent. of Australia's inhabitants are of British origin. Even the ubiquitous German has not impressed himself very deeply on the continent, the German-born part of the population contributing about 50,000 souls to the total population of four and a quarter millions.¹

'Twas Captain Cook who first planted the Union Jack on Australian soil, when he took possession, in England's name, of the district

¹ After all, however, those 50,000 German souls compare very favourably with the German population of the German Colonies, whose total muster is about 1,800, consisting largely of soldiers, officials, and missionaries.

around Botany Bay. But on the 19th of January, 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip landed there and (in Mr. Coghlan's business-like phraseology) "formally took possession of the whole continent."¹ From the time of Elizabeth onwards Englishmen have been famed for the marvellously cool way in which they walk over the earth and possess it, as though it were a suburban building plot; but I think that this record would be hard to beat in all the annals of colonisation and empire making. An adventurous officer in charge of a small expeditionary force, ten thousand miles away from home and help, coolly beaches his vessel on the wild shores of an unknown continent, and "formally takes possession of it!" The sheer impudence of the thing takes one's breath away; the immensity of it and the intrepidity of the business thrill one's veins. Captain Arthur Phillip's heart must have beat high when he first felt this continent beneath his feet, for from early

¹ *The Seven Colonies of Australasia* 1895-6.

days men had talked of a wonderful "Terra Australis Incognita," and legends were told of the gold and treasures which lay therein. And he was the first to take possession of this wonderful far off continent—maybe the veritable El Dorado of men's dreams—and plant thereon his country's flag.

The best use which his country's government could think of for the magnificent possession was to use it as a dumping ground for convicts. Botany Bay was declared a penal settlement, and the continent was for some years colonised almost entirely by chained gangs of deported criminals and the soldiers who guarded them. There is a magnificence, of a sort, even in this unapproachable manifestation of contempt for great possessions. Happily, however, there was a small influx of free emigrants almost from the first; ere long the free colonists began to outnumber the convicts, and in 1840 the penal system was abandoned.

Some dim notion of the vast extent of this southern corner of the British Empire may be gathered from the statement that the Australias comprise a total land area of nearly two thousand million acres. Of course you cannot grasp this—the realisation of billions is impossible to the finest arithmetical human mind ; statements in millions are only of use for purposes of comparison. Compare, then, Australasia's land acreage with the acreage of the United Kingdom. The total area of land and water in the British Isles, including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, is 77,671,319 acres ; this against the 1,966,555,830 acres of land in Australasia. You could, therefore, make the United Kingdom twenty-five times larger than it is, and it would fit comfortably into the boundaries of Australasia. And though many settlements have been made, and vast estates are held in fee or on lease by private persons, there is yet room for the whole of the population of the United Kingdom to settle itself comfortably in

4 y roomy homes on the land still held by the Crown until settlers come. These lands comprise an area of 1,177,121,142 acres. Every man, woman, and child, therefore, in the United Kingdom could, for his or her sole use and enjoyment, have in Australia a plot of land, not of three acres, but of thirty acres. At present the land actually alienated is rather less than 125 million acres, and a curious and by no means happy feature of Australian land owning is that these acres are largely in the hands of a few persons. In New South Wales, for example, 679 persons own half the alienated land; in New Zealand, 584 persons own considerably more than half. This is an unpleasant feature, because it is evidence of the fact, which becomes more and more marked each year, that the population of Australasia, instead of spreading itself over the vast fertile acres yet awaiting cultivation, is penning itself in cities. There is an excuse in England for men living the artificial urban life; for the most

part they have no choice in the matter. But Australians should know better. That they should immure themselves in the few towns on the coast, when behind them stretch illimitable plains and downs whereon they could have free and independent homes, is almost a criminal act. Their tendency to self-congratulation on the growth of their cities, though, perhaps, natural in a way, should in the circumstances be sternly repressed. They ought to be ashamed of their streets.

For the agricultural capacity of Australia is so enormous. It cannot be an exaggeration to say that the continent, with its varieties of climate and fertile soils, could grow enough food and wine to feed the world; it could certainly hold enough sheep and other animals to clothe the world. Its gold fields and stores of precious stones could find the world in coin and jewellery; its coal fields could, not improbably, supply the world with its fuel for centuries. True, in some of these industries

very great progress is being made. Including artificial grasses, the area under cultivation in the Seven Colonies is more than eleven times greater than it was in 1861. Yet Australia should be ashamed that it at present only grows 1·34 per cent. of the world's wheat crop. She has made better progress with her wool industry. Her pastoral property in 1896 was valued at £240,116,000, and the annual return from pastoral pursuits is computed at £34,304,000. The number of sheep depastured in 1894 was 38,747,000. Truly, the Australian wool trade has made big strides since its father, Captain MacArthur, first stocked the land at the end of the last century with sheep, afterwards adding to his little flock some ewes and rams which had formed part of a present from the King of Spain to George III. For this is the oldest of all Australia's industries. Wool was first taken from Australia to England in 1808.

A word as to the wealth of Australians.

In the United Kingdom only 9 per cent. of the population have property worth £100; in Australia the percentage is 13. And Australasia has no poor rate. Another proof of the extent and diffusion of wealth is that furnished by the food consumption statistics. Outside Australia the biggest meat-eating country in the world is the United States, with an annual consumption of 150 lbs. per head. England comes next with about 122 lbs.; all other countries are substantially below that figure. Australasia's consumption is 256 lbs. per head! It may not be healthy, but it is a potent sign of the vigorous appetite of the people and of their power to satisfy it. Finally, to indicate how great already is Australasia's wealth production, for herself as for her mother country, let me cite the significant fact that she furnishes England with an annual income of $15\frac{1}{2}$ millions sterling.

New South Wales

NEW SOUTH WALES is one of England's daughters; but she, in turn, claims to be a mother—the mother of the Australian Colonies. It was on her shores that Australasian settlement was first effected; Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, Victoria and the Northern Territory of South Australia were at one time within her boundaries. But even in her now restricted area she is much bigger than the Old Country: New South Wales's limits comprise an area a little more than two and a half times the size of the United Kingdom. The population is about 1,270,000—a fact suggesting two reflections: (1) that the Colony has made substantial

and steady progress since the subsidence of the gold fever of the Fifties—(the population was 357,978 in '61)—and (2) that there is room for very much more progress. Let us try for a bird's-eye glance at some of the main directions in which this future progress may be developed.

The leading thought in the mind of a



student of New South Wales's economic geography is the number of profitable industries which are either neglected altogether, or are only developed in a ridiculously embryonic form. On every hand the country cries aloud for men to come and take her wealth. Nor in

saying this am I travelling over the whole field of possible industrial development—I utterly eliminate manufactures. Yet, even in the primary industries, the settlers' choice is so bewilderingly varied that it would be impossible here to give more than a bare catalogue of the industrial openings lying before the man who would make his home in New South Wales. Nevertheless, until quite recently, New South Welshmen seemed all unconscious of their varied stores of potential wealth; they were content, for the most part, to ring the changes on gold mines and sheep runs, or to devote themselves to commercial pursuits and the building up of Sydney as the chief market town of the Australias. But the recent depression into which New South Wales was plunged, in common with her neighbours, has awakened the people to the need of diversified industries and to the possibilities of new openings. Thus, perhaps, the depression has proved rather a disguised

blessing than the curse which those who suffered from it deemed it to be.



[Photo by Bunnet.]

A NEW SOUTH
WALES LANCER.

Glance first at Agriculture, the Queen Mother of all the industries. The tilling of the soil has always, in New South Wales, occupied a position of secondary importance to stock breeding; yet great progress has been made since the first farm was started at Parramatta in 1789. There were in 1895 1,325,964 acres under crops of various kinds. The total value of the produce was £3,395,571, which works out to an average value

per acre of £2 11s. 3d. To wheat is appropriately devoted the largest area, 647,483 acres

being given up to this grain—about a third, that is, of the acreage devoted to wheat in the United Kingdom. But not all the wheat lands are intended for harvest ; wheat is



IN A SHEARING
SHED.

grown largely and increasingly for hay, and at present it appears to be more profitable when so used, the average return being £2

5s. an acre when grown for grain, and £3 10s. when grown for hay. The wheat grower's outlook is not entirely cloudless. Recently the yields have not been so good as a decade since ; though this is probably to be accounted for, in part at any rate, by the fact that with the extension of wheat cultivation less fertile lands have come under the plough. But even so, the yield per acre of wheat from New South Wales fields is, on an average, at least fully equal to the average yield of the United States, the greatest wheat producing country of the world, and three times greater than that of Russia, the second largest wheat country. Moreover, notwithstanding decreased returns, wheat can still be made to pay. There are many thousand more acres in the country suited to it which have not yet been cultivated ; yet New South Wales has ceased to export wheat, and has to import for her home consumption something like two million bus-

hels a year to supply the deficiency. Here, then, is clearly one direction in which New South Wales's rural industry should be developed.

In the production of maize also there is room for certain extension : not so great as in the case of wheat, because an export market would be more difficult of attainment. But the deficiency in the production for local requirements, though diminishing, has not yet been overtaken ; nor have the possibilities of the large cultivation of maize as green food for cattle been yet as fully exploited as the adaptability of much of the land for maize cultivation warrants. Judging also from recent experiments, maize-stalks may at any moment come into the sugar manufacturing market as a formidable rival of cane and beet. Oats are a shamefully neglected crop. There are large and unnecessary imports into the Colony, despite the fact that the cooler regions are well adapted to oat cultivation, that in the warmer

parts oats grow well as a hay crop, and that oaten hay is much in demand at remunerative prices.

Come now to the dairy. Considering that England imports every year three million hundredweights of butter from foreign countries, it is impossible to set bounds to the dairying opportunities of New South Wales ; for good dairy grass grows there, and the climate of the eastern districts is admirably suited to the industry. An auspicious beginning has been made. Thanks to the new creamery system, the industry has begun to make definite progress. There are now over four hundred creameries or factories in New South Wales, and the majority of them are run on the co-operative plan, that most excellent of all industrial methods. The industry employs about 26,000 hands, and the yearly output of butter is little short of 30,000,000 lbs. But the farmers' dairy methods are as yet far from perfect. New South Welsh dairymen are

slow in making the necessary provision of cultivated food for cows during the winter. Nor are they careful about the elimination of foreign moisture from their butter. Want of attention to this latter point will spoil their chances of the export trade, as, owing to water freezing more rapidly than fatty substance, the texture of the butter gets spoiled; and with the present remarkable uniform excellence of Danish and other foreign butter, nothing short of the best can command the market. Closely allied to butter is bacon. In this also lies a great future before the New South Welsh dairymen. But they must pay more attention to the proper breeding of their swine, and set about co-operating for the erection of bacon factories with refrigerating machinery, so that curing may go on during the summer months. Seeing that England imports six and a half million hundredweights of pig meat from foreign countries every year, this important

adjunct to the dairy trade is worth looking after.

'Tis as a pastoral country that New South Wales has hitherto earned the greater part of her rural living. She holds about 57,000,000 sheep (47 per cent. of all the Australian sheep); her annual wool-clip is over 330,000,000 lbs., the value of which is over nine millions sterling. It is enough to set down these figures, and to pass to other less completely developed industries; for, in the opinion of many, the wool industry in New South Wales has about attained its full development, and the general interest of the Colony will not be served by any further abnormal expansion of this one branch of rural industry. It is also believed that the present huge development of the pastoral industry has been mischievous in its abnormality, as, owing to it, the progress of cattle-raising has been seriously checked; and certainly it is an unwelcome fact that the number of cattle in the country was no greater

in 1895 than in 1861. The country at present carries about two and a half million head. Between '75 and '85 there was a great decline; since then, however, there has been a steady improvement in numbers. Improvements in the character of the stock have also been evinced lately, but there is still room for further improvement (particularly in the matter of cross-breeding for fattening purposes), if the infant export trade is to be developed. This trade also depends for its progress on shipping facilities. The ordinary, regular steamers could not convey more than five thousand cattle in the course of a year; obviously, therefore, a special service of steamers would be necessary to give the industry a real start. As to the dead meat trade, the shipments of chilled beef have not hitherto been a great success; but there seems a likelihood that efficient methods will be introduced, so that in the future, either by chilling on a new process, or by a good system of defrosting

frozen meat, New South Wales will be able to embark on a vigorous competition with America.

Of the other openings for New South Welsh industry (apart from mining), perhaps the most important is timber. Whether it be a street in want of wood paving, or a dining-room in need of a mahogany sideboard, a jetty in need of piles, or a cabinet requiring the ornamentation of inlaid panels, New South Wales can provide it, provide it in plenty, and of the most admirable quality. And yet—it sounds incredible—the Colony actually imports timber for its own use to the tune of between three and four thousand pounds' worth a year! Meanwhile, England alone buys sixteen millions' worth of timber every year from foreign countries. New South Wales in 1896 only sent us timber (exclusive of mahogany) to the value of £32,427. This figure, however, betokens an encouraging advance, being nearly four times as great as that for the previous

year ; and it is hoped that the trade will soon be largely extended. It has an immense potential future.



JOADGA CREEK.

I have but touched the fringe of this wonderful treasury. I have said nothing of

New South Wales's vast auriferous area, which covers at least 80,000 square miles, or of her stores of silver (and the famous Broken Hill District is the finest known silver-field in the world), nor of her magnificent coalfields, estimated by the Government geologist to contain over seventy-eight billion tons; nor of her iron mines, or her tin and copper mines, whose possibilities have hardly yet been tapped beyond the experimental stage. I have said nothing of the diamonds, the rubies, the turquoises, the topazes, the opals, and the other precious gems which are constantly being brought to the surface in just sufficient quantities to set the imagination aflame over the glories as yet unrevealed. Neither have I attempted to describe the multitudinous shoals of fish which haunt the coast and the estuaries of the rivers, to say nothing of the immense quantities of large, good-eating fresh fish which swim in the rivers themselves. I have said nothing of the vine cultivation, which

is struggling through its infant perils, giving promise of many million gallons of good wine in the future. There has been no space to record the efforts towards cultivating tobacco, so far successful that New South Wales already supplies itself with half its tobacco. Room, too, has failed me for any record of the attempts to cultivate sugar, by no means unsuccessful, in spite of the heavy discouragement which the recent abolition of the tariff duty on imported sugar is inflicting upon the industry¹; or the happy beginnings of orange growing, or of the possibilities of the growth of orchard fruits of all kinds. Yet all these stores of wealth, and more also, await the labourer and the capitalist in Australia's premier Colony.

Two significant facts in conclusion. Though food is cheaper in New South Wales than in

¹ At the time of writing there is a likelihood of this tariff being re-enacted.

England, the wage earner's income is fully half as big again. The proportion of the population dependent on State support in New South Wales is only 4·8 per thousand ; in the United Kingdom it is 7·37.

Victoria

VICTORIA is entitled to second place in a list of the Australasian States.

For though in area it is, save Tasmania, the smallest, occupying but one thirty-fourth part of the whole Continent, it ranks second to New South Wales in population. It contains fully 1,200,000 inhabitants, equal to thirty-eight per cent. of the Continent's total population; and though its lands are stinted, relatively to other Australian States, they are spacious when compared with the Mother Country's area; for they comprise 56,245,760 acres, which is almost equivalent to the acreage of Great Britain. The Colony originally formed part of New South Wales, and

was then known as the Port Phillip District ; though when Sir Thomas Mitchell first surveyed it on his overland excursion from New South Wales, he named it Australia Felix—an apt compliment to a land of so great natural beauty and so magnificent a



climate ; and the subsequent output of gold and the more recent development of agricultural wealth have made the term yet more appropriate. Owing to its rapid colonisation in the earlier half of the century, Victoria was separated from New South Wales on the 1st of July, 1851, and entered on the privileges

and responsibilities of independence. Immediately afterwards, in the same year, gold was discovered in the Colony, and discovered in such quantities that, of all the goldfields in the world, none had yet been found to equal Ballarat in richness.

Victoria began its career as an agricultural country. In the Fifties came the gold rush, and men sought quicker roads to fortune. Now Victorians have succumbed to the Australian love for town life. They have made of Melbourne a magnificent capital, worthy to rank with the first cities of the old world; but in the process the tilling of the soil has been neglected. However, the years of commercial depression which ushered in the Nineties have had a sobering effect on these dreams of urban glory, and a stimulating effect on the Colony's rural progress. Hard-pressed Melbourne shopkeepers and clerks are now beginning to turn with wistful and hopeful eyes to the rich lands of the interior, where healthful

occupation and a certain competence await the husbandman.

There is every inducement to Victorians to spread themselves over the land. In all directions the Government has thrown out lines of railway, even where settlement is but sparse, in order to attract farmers ; and the Colony's situation precludes the establishment of any farms at a much greater distance than 300 miles from a seaport. Already the agricultural produce of the Colony is worth fully eight millions sterling a year, and in certain directions it is growing rapidly. Still, for the most part, Victoria's agricultural wealth is as yet unexploited, and, in the language of a Victorian writer,¹ the Colony's "large and fruitful area is languishing for population."

Everywhere throughout Victoria land is to be obtained from the Government for £1 an acre, repayable in annual instalments extending

¹ "Victoria and its Resources." *Land Settlement in Victoria*. By E. Jerome Dyer.

over twenty years, without interest. In the northern and eastern parts are whole counties practically unsettled. Some of these districts are covered with a species of stunted eucalyptus called mallee, and these were at one time thought impossible of cultivation; but the advent of the mallee roller and the stump-jumping plough have shown the way to profitable settlement on soils which, when cleared, are as productive of certain crops as farmers could wish. At one time, also, the dry climate in certain parts of the Colony was deemed an insuperable bar to cultivation, but the irrigation works undertaken by the Government, as well as by private capitalists—notably the Chaffey Brothers—have effectually broken down this barrier; and now Victoria affords, over well-nigh the entire territory, as profitable and pleasant a field for the agriculturist as he could well desire. Useless deserts are to be found; but they occupy a relatively insignificant space. And even in them—those, at any

rate, by the sea shore—the wattle is now being profitably cultivated for its tanning bark.

Victoria's crops are varied. She won distinction with potatoes in the earlier days of the century, when settlement first began, and potato farms are still at the top of the rural property market. Victorian wheat, again, is the finest in the world. It is certainly good enough for profitable cultivation; for though the Colony's average production is low—4·49 bushels to the acre in 1896-97—well cultivated land will produce heavy crops in good years, even from thirty-five to forty bushels; and the cheap methods of harvesting and cultivation in vogue allow a profit on light crops. The dry climate is certainly no serious drawback to the wheat-farming. It may have its disadvantages, but it has its compensations, one of them being that the land is nearly always ready for the plough. Maize also (though local experts say that the Victorian farmers have not yet mastered the mystery of its cultivation) does

well, and should have an expanded future. One hears of a hundred bushels to the acre being obtained, and the yield is as heavy as in any parts of the great maize-growing lands



From a photo by]

[W. H. Bunnet.

VICTORIAN MOUNTED RIFLEMAN.

of North America. Certain districts also are well suited to oats. Favoured, well-cultivated farms on the moister soils will yield from forty up to seventy bushels to the acre. The average for one year, 1896-97, was 16.28 bushels.

Peas, again, grow well ; and this is important, for pea crops help to refertilize soils which have become temporarily impoverished by a continuous run of grain crops.

All the world knows that Victoria has achieved an important place among the stock-breeding countries, and when it is remembered how favourable are the natural conditions, the fact is not to be wondered at ; nor are we justified in putting any period upon the Colony's future development of stock-rearing. Practically Victoria has no winter. Stock, therefore, can be pastured all the year round, and feeding is not a necessity. Feeding, however, pays. Foods can be obtained easily and cheaply, and the farmer who makes additions to the pasture diet of his animals reaps the benefit in more profitable produce.

The most remarkable development of rural industry in Victoria—indeed, it holds the record the world over—is in the recent outburst of dairying. Up to a few years ago, dairy

operations were thought little of by the Victorian farmer. Butter was made—of a kind; of such a kind that 70 per cent. of it was sold for grease and soap manufacture. The change dated from the Melbourne Exhibition of 1888–89. Then, and immediately afterwards, strenuous efforts were made by a few men, aided largely by Government assistance of divers kinds, to teach Victorian farmers how to make butter, and to make it profitably. They learned the lesson with marvellous celerity. They not only began to make better butter, but they began to make it in a better way; they went in for the factory system, and largely on co-operative lines. Between 1892 and 1895 the manufacture of butter on farms declined from 10,860,844 lbs. to 8,876,892 lbs., but in the same period the quantity of factory-made butter was increased from 5,842,942 lbs. to 26,703,309 lbs. Similarly with cheese. Of farm cheese, in '92, there were made 2,492,730 lbs.; in '95, the

total was down to 1,953,262 lbs., while the make of factory cheese rose from 818,282 lbs. to 2,199,869 lbs. Of course this production is largely in excess of local requirements. Victoria is developing the export business; and to good purpose. In 1890 she sent to England 8,708 cwts. of butter; by 1895 the consignments had grown to a total of 212,797 cwts. There was a check in 1896, when the total export to England was only 154,862 cwts.; but the returns for '97 show that the business is again on the upward grade, the export to England in that year reaching 196,080 cwts. The progress has been so great, and looks so healthy for the future, that the Danes, who were recently by way of getting a monopoly of the British market, have become seriously alarmed; and, truly, their alarm has grounds. It is not easy for northern countries to maintain a regular supply during the winter months; those are just the summer butter-producing months in the Antipodes. Nor should the ex-

port be confined to the British market. India and other eastern markets nearer of access might be tapped. But the Victorian dairyman



From a photo by

[W. H. Bunnet.]

CORPORAL PATTERSON (OF THE VICTORIAN MOUNTED RIFLES) WITH "DAISY BELL," THE REGIMENTAL KANGAROO PRESENTED TO THE QUEEN; AND SERGEANT COLLINS (OF THE WEST INDIA REGIMENT).

must not confine his progressive efforts to butter and cheese; he should extend them to that great by-product of the dairy, bacon.

At present, though encouraging signs are not wanting, it must be confessed that Victoria is lagging behind with the pig.

But in the minds of some enthusiastic Victorians their province's industrial future lies mainly in viticulture. The area suitable to vineyards is computed at 15,000,000 acres; that is to say, an area as large as that of the vine areas of France, Spain, and the larger half of Italy combined. Compared with those older countries, the Victorian wine industry is in its toddling infancy; but the infant is shooting up rapidly. In 1861 Victoria made 47,568 gallons of wine; in '94 the production was 1,909,972 gallons.

It is late in the day to call attention to Victoria's magnificent pastoral resources, nor, in respect of the outlook, is it necessary; future development is less likely to run in that direction than in others. Not that any signs of restricted output are yet apparent, despite Argentinan competition. Between the years

1881 and 1894 the weight of the Victorian wool clip grew from 58,832,500 lbs. to 68,274,895 lbs. And though prices are less than formerly, Victorian merino wool still commands a price ($8\frac{1}{2}d.$ a pound) only just beaten by that of the New Zealand cross-bred wool. Gold has done much for Victoria, the total yield since the early diggings being about two hundred and fifty millions sterling. Lastly, Victoria is, under the stimulating influence of protective duties, making good progress with manufactures. After deducting the value of the raw materials, it is estimated that Victoria's manufactures are worth about ten millions a year.

Queensland

BUT if Victoria be worthy of these encomiums, what shall be said of Queensland, that great, wonderful territory which stretches away northward from New South Wales, through the Tropic of Capricorn, to the Torres Straits and the sea borders of New Guinea? Victoria's spacious acres of virgin soil are too many for her people. Yet Victoria, with nearly three times Queensland's population, has little more than an eighth of its area, and the land is equally fruitful. Queensland has in Brisbane a capital city of which any young country might be proud ; it has flourishing towns dotted along its 2,000 miles of seaboard ; it has settlements inland, connected with each other by

railways or coach roads ; but for the most part the shriek of the locomotive, the hammer of the miner, the lowing of cattle, the hum of human voices have as yet made few inroads into the stillness of the vast, lone land over which intrepid explorers have trailed their tiny



cavalcades, fixing the first white man's gaze on its lakes and forests, its deserts and its mountains. There are few places on the earth's surface which appeal to the imagination with such fascinating charm as does this portion of the British Empire ; not even the African jungle has taken its toll of brave

human life more inexorably than the land wherein lies the dust of Leichardt, and of Burke, and of Wills. Truly, to every son of the English Empire, to every man who values courageous deeds, the spots whereon these men died must ever be holy ground. To-day, though Queensland remains, over the great part of its area, the same wild country which lured the early explorers, it is thanks to their exertions, and to those of the early pioneers of Queensland's industry, that the unknown wilderness is gradually but surely retreating mile by mile, and the homes and fields of civilised Britons are covering the erstwhile waste places.

Queensland's industrial progress, measured by its wealth production, has been marvellous. During the earlier half of the century an unhappy penal settlement for English felons, it has, since its birth as a self-governing colony in December, 1851, become in certain industries a prominent competitor with the world's

wealth producers. Its three leading industries are wool, gold, and sugar. In 1895 its production of wool was valued at £2,986,989; of gold, at £2,265,354; of sugar, at £671,454.



BRISBANE.

It is not likely that the pre-eminence of wool will be permanently maintained. By this I do not mean that the pastoral industry has reached its zenith, but only that other industries have a future of expansion before them which wool is not likely to share. So far the

pastoralist has had no reason to fear that his industry is overcrowded. In the ten years, 1886 to 1895, the export of wool from Queensland increased from 28,700,546 lbs. to 85,278,493 lbs. True, 1892 and 1893 were even fatter years, but the figures generally show that so far, and on the whole, Queensland's pastoral industry is in a condition of healthy growth. But the price of wool is not what it was, and the problem of finding profitable use for the surplus sheep is beginning to press somewhat heavily. The old wasteful system of boiling down for tallow will no longer answer, and Queensland's flocks can only continue to grow, profitably to their owners, by the aid of a large export trade in frozen mutton. This trade is being built up. The exports to England increased from 23,055 tons in 1892 to 43,225 tons in 1896; but, remembering New Zealand's tremendous lead, he would be a rash man who prophesied very great things for the future. Similarly with

cattle. The number in the colony is still increasing, but hopes of further great increases are damped by the same problem of the disposal of the cast. In the case of beef, however Queensland may have a big future, if scientific invention prove equal to preserving the meat on some other than the present freezing process, and if also England will take some measures to put her colony at an advantage with the United States in the meat market.

Victoria has its Ballarat ; but Queensland has its Mount Morgan. Of all the gold mines in the world this is the most wonderful in rich-



[Photo by Bunnet.]

QUEENSLAND MOUNTED
RIFLEMAN

ness. A little hill covering but five acres, and in ten years it has yielded more than one and a half million ounces of gold, worth more than six millions sterling. And how many Mount Morgans are there yet to be discovered? Queensland is claimed as the possessor of a larger gold area than any country in the world, and certainly every year confirms the statement that, so far, the very surface only of this area has been scratched. Many failures have been recorded, many more remain to be recorded, in this speculative industry. Canoona, the first goldfield exploited in Queensland, was a failure ; but to the gold which will be drawn from Queensland's rocks in the future no man can set bounds. Even the failures in the past have been in many cases owing not to the absence of gold, but to the bad methods employed or the lack of perseverance in searching deep for the treasure. The days of the alluvial deposits seem to be about over ; but this is but the beginning of gold mining. In

the future the metal will be won deep down in the quartz, and won, not by the primitive methods employed in earlier days, but by the aid of advanced chemical science and mechanical invention. The management of many of the Queensland goldfields in the past has been stigmatised by the official report of the Government as "criminal mismanagement." Ore has been wastefully treated, expensive plant has been erected before ever the existence of gold at the spot was proved; so capital has been wasted and frittered away. A happier era of capable management seems now, however, to have dawned, and the triumphs of the past are likely to be far excelled in the future. And the output in the past makes a huge record. Between the Canoona rush in the early Fifties and the end of '96, 11,196,817 ounces of gold were extracted from Queensland's soil, and their value, at £3 10s. an ounce, equals a sum of £39,188,859.

But, great as is Queensland's wealth of gold,

she by no means bases her claim to mineral riches on that metal only. Silver abounds, and the recent decline in its output is attributable, not to the exhaustion of the ore, but to the unprofitableness of working under present low prices. The Queensland silver mines, like certain English economists, wait hungrily for bi-metallism. Lowness of price also accounts in no small measure for the lack of progress in copper and tin mining. The existence of extensive deposits of these ores has been proved, and some of them have been, and are being, worked. Both copper and tin are hampered also by lack of transport facilities. The Queensland Government has vigorously pushed forward with railway construction, but much more is wanted, and the lack is largely responsible for the restricted output of tin and copper.

So it is with coal. It is impossible to measure the vastness of Queensland's coal-fields, and the colony's Year Book may well

be excused for describing them as "inexhaustible." Yet the only collieries sunk are necessarily those in proximity to railways, for of inland waterways there is an unfortunate lack. One cannot help wondering if the Queensland Government, in the course of its successful efforts to bring water out of the ground by artesian bores and irrigation schemes, could not also find it feasible to civilise its interior districts, and nurse great industries into life, by constructing artificial waterways. They are slower methods of communication, but they are cheaper than railways, and better adapted to the transport of bulky produce.

Nor do the minerals above enumerated tell the tale of Queensland's subterraneous riches. Besides others, such as antimony, bismuth, lead, iron, and manganese ore, there are the precious gems; and an enumeration of the varieties which have been found in the Colony is the enumeration of the contents of a jeweller's shop. Hitherto the greatest success has at-

tended the search for opals. It is only recently, however, that the search has been undertaken in a systematic and scientific manner. Previously the work was pursued in a perfunctory and primitive fashion, chiefly by shepherds in their odd moments; but, judging by the output from better methods, there seems every likelihood that opals will, in the future, form an important part of Queensland's mineral wealth.

Chief among Queensland's agricultural industries, as I have said, is sugar. It has had a chequered history, but the bad times which succeeded the early good times have taught Queenslanders a wholesome lesson, and the experience gained is now putting the industry on a firm footing for large future developments. The mistake made in earlier days was the endeavour to blend cane-growing, cane-crushing, and sugar-refining. Now the first of these operations can be best conducted by a number of men in a district, each working on a

small or moderate scale. The latter processes demand working on a large scale, and this is becoming constantly more imperative with the transition from the rude and wasteful methods of former days to the scientific and economical methods of to-day. These facts now seem to be well appreciated, and Queensland sugar should have a big future. Already the Colony makes nearly all her own sugar, and the export is increasing. In 1895, 1,344,120 cwts. were sent away. This figure shows pretty rapid progress for an infant industry, for the first pound of Queensland sugar was not made until 1862. When the European beet-sugar bounties are checkmated by the Imperial Government, sugar-cane-growing in Queensland will offer the farmer as good an opening as any industry he could embark on, the average money yield working out to about £16 an acre. Neighbourhood to a factory is, of course, a necessity; and the Queensland Government embarked on a statesmanlike course when, to

encourage sugar factories, it passed the Sugar Works Guarantee Act of 1893, under which the Government may guarantee the interest and principal of debentures issued by sugar-making companies. Here is a great opportunity for co-operation. The farmers in cane-growing districts should unite to run their own factories.

The labour problem crops up in a special form in connection with Queensland sugar-growing. The employment of Kanaka labourers in the fields has been found to be practically inevitable, but objections have been taken, both on moral and economic grounds. The white labourers' objection has been satisfactorily disposed of; the moral objection may be very much mitigated if the Government will ordain that full facilities shall be provided for taking back to their native islands, at the end of their three years' contract, those Kanakas who desire to return.

Of the many other branches of field produc-

tion which Queensland offers there is no room to speak. But space must be found for a few words on the subject of coffee. Practical experiments have demonstrated the suitability of Queensland's northern coast land to coffee plantations. While everything else has been falling, coffee has risen by over thirty per cent. since the early Eighties. Here, then, is a grand field for enterprise, unhampered by an overstocked market. At present, out of the total yearly output of 500,000 tons, Queensland contributes rather less than one ton.

South Australia

AND when Queensland has become exhausted there will remain for settlement that great country to the west and south-west of it, named (somewhat inaptly) the Province of South Australia. This Colony, with the Northern Territory (which was added to it in 1863) comprises a total area of 578,361,600 acres; a region, that is to say, more than ten times as large as Great Britain. Not all these acres are meet for the plough. In the interior of the country are mountains, salt lakes, and deserts—the Central Australian Desert—which would afford neither food for man nor pasturage for beasts. But when these unprofitable districts are subtracted, how much remains! In the coastal region of

the south, agriculturists are tilling the soil; more sparsely, cultivators are to be found dotted about the tropical lands of the extreme north; pastoralists are tending sheep in the interior of South Australia; but the husbandry of half a century has scarce touched the fringe



of South Australia's resources. Combining the populations of South Australia proper and of the Northern Territory, we only reach to a total of about 357,400 souls; and more than a third of this number have elected to pen themselves within the capital city of Adelaide. It has always been thus. Though South Aus-

tralia was started as essentially an agricultural Colony, the immigrants could hardly be persuaded to go into the land and possess it, and, in the early days, Colonel Gawler had to take forcible measures to induce the new comers to leave the city and take up their residence on their properties.*

In 1851 (the year in which South Australia was born as, in part, a self-governing Colony) slow-growing agriculture received another check. Gold had been found in Victoria, and "Ballarat" was the cry, even in South Australia. Men, women, and children rushed across the border to the diggings, tramping 500 miles, in some cases, where they could not afford an easier method of travel, and the Colony seemed likely to be broken up ere it was fairly launched into life. Happily the

* Colonel Gawler's daughter, Mrs. Poulton, has told me that among these measures was the stopping up of chimneys in the cottages which the settlers were allowed to occupy for the three months during which they were supposed to be building their own houses.

fever soon subsided. A year afterwards the people began to return to their homes, and Victorian ex-diggers came with them. Those who had money wanted to settle down in rural homes ; those who had not been successful were willing to try the slower process of wealth accumulation which agricultural industry afforded. From that date onwards the tilling of South Australia's soil has progressed steadily, if slowly. 'Tis a pity the progress has not been more rapid ; for many profitable industries are in foreign hands which might otherwise be conducted under the Union Jack. South Australia's wheat, for example, takes high rank in respect to quality ; yet only about one and a half million acres are under cultivation, and this despite the fact that wheat is the favourite crop with South Australian farmers. Perhaps, however, it is not wise to press the cultivation of wheat in South Australia. The yield per acre is not high, being lower than that of the other Australasian

Colonies; and there are many other products to which the climate and soil are peculiarly fitted which might be grown to greater profit.

The vine is a conspicuous instance. The price of grapes averages from about £3 10s. to £4 5s. a ton, and the profit thus yielded is greater than the wheat farmer can realise. Viticulture, indeed, is especially an industry which South Australians should cultivate with assiduity. From their vines can be produced a specially good wine, and South Australian vineyards are free from the ravages of phylloxera and most of the other vine diseases. Yet, in spite of the deservedly high reputation South Australian wines bear, the yearly output is only about three-quarters of a million gallons. But the Government takes an active interest in the industry, and has appointed a viticultural expert to give vine growers sadly needed advice and assistance, and has besides distributed vine cuttings gratis. With all these advan-

tages, therefore, it may fairly be hoped that ere long South Australian wines will enter into serious competition with the products of Californian and European vineyards. Nor need the grape cultivator of South Australia confine himself to wine production or table grapes ; he is equally capable of supplying the raisin and currant market. The Adelaide plains are particularly adapted to the sun-drying of all fruits. At present the dried-fruit industry is only just born.

But the fruit of the vine is only one of many products which await the South Australian husbandman. Almonds can be easily grown ; so easily, and with such fecundity, that on almost any soil the trees will thrive with little more labour on the grower's part than trenching the land around them ; and the expense and trouble necessary for collecting the produce is correspondingly small. Yet there are only about 112,000 almond trees in the Colony. England receives very few al-

monds from South Australia—only 750 cwts. from all her Possessions, while from foreign countries she took last year 147,168 cwts. Surely here is an enticing industry for men in search of a profitable rural occupation. But possibilities in other directions are equally neglected. Oranges are grown, but less than 70,000 trees have been planted; figs thrive splendidly, but the industry is neglected. So with olives; there are only about 46,000 trees, and only about 2,300 gallons of oil made in the year; yet the cultivation and manufacture, so far as they are practised, are a marked success.

Leaving fruit, the same remarks as to potentialities and their neglect apply to such other products as hops, capers, opium, perfumes, and castor oil. Taking only the last, the castor oil plant will grow anywhere, on land where nothing else will grow; it is only men to manufacture it who are wanting. More attention has been paid in recent years to the cultivation

of the wattle bark for tanning ; and this is not remarkable, for the price in recent years has been good, and the cultivation is cheap and easy.

Concerning South Australia's mineral wealth, there is much for the prophet to say. Up to the present, however, South Australia, if we except her copper mines—and of copper the Colony contains vast wealth—has not achieved greatly : but enough has been done in the way of experiment

and exploration to convince experts that the Colony, if properly worked, would produce



Photo by]

[Bunnett.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
MOUNTED RIFLEMAN.

stores of gold, and silver, and tin, and other minerals in a measure not unworthy of her sisters. To mention one of the humbler deposits, immense stores of blue lias limestone of excellent quality have been discovered. Now, England's cement industry is in its decadence — Germany is killing it. Why should not South Australia retort in kind upon Germany?

Of the Northern Territory I have left myself little space to speak. Yet, on the score of extent, it should command a foremost place, for it is nearly half as big again as South Australia proper. At present, however, its settlement is so sparse as hardly to deserve the name. The population of this vast region is less than 5,000, and they are mostly Chinamen. Yet the grand future which is opening out before North Queensland should be shared by the Northern Territory of South Australia. Like North Queensland, the territory is admirably adapted for sugar, coffee, tobacco, rice,

and cotton plantations, for the cultivation of indigo and maize. Jute or sun-hemp grows wild in the territory, and points the way to a very remunerative industry, if the necessary machinery were imported. On the coast there is a trade (conducted chiefly by Malays) in *bêche-de-mer*, and the industry could, doubtless, be extended. And lastly, here, as in the rest of Australia, indications of gold and other mineral wealth are apparent. The climate is tropical, but that is no absolute deterrent, especially as it is said to be more pleasant and healthful than that of Java and India and other equatorial lands in which Englishmen find life by no means insupportable.

Western Australia

LAST, but not least, among the provinces of the Australian Continent comes Western Australia. It was only born as a self-governing Colony at the beginning of 1890; but how huge an infant! It spreads over one-third of the entire Continent—over 624,588,800 acres: it equals, that is, the total areas of Austro-Hungary, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Servia, and Montenegro combined. In 1890 its population was under 40,000; at the end of 1895 it was 101,235; to-day it must closely approximate 200,000; for in recent months immigrants have been pouring in at the rate of about 1,000 a week—mostly, however, from other Australian Colonies. But if this 200,000

were multiplied one hundred-fold, so vast a land would still cry aloud for men to come and take possession of her. Western Australia, when it has been settled, will be an empire in itself. Unhappily, that settlement has been grievously delayed. It was right back in 1616



that Dick Hartog, the first European to reach Western Australia, beached his vessel on the island off the coast which now bears his name. But it was not until the early years of the present century that colonisation was attempted on the Swan River, and those early settlements had a chequered and not very prosperous ex-

istence. All sorts of mistakes were made, all sorts of troubles worried the pioneers, and in the Fifties farms were deserted for the Victorian gold-fields. To-day Victorian farms are sometimes deserted for the Westralian gold-fields.

Just now Western Australia is inevitably associated in all our minds with the production of gold. "Westralia," as Throgmorton Street likes to call it, just means gold and nothing else, and, apart from speculation in gold-mining shares, Western Australia has no existence in the minds of ninety-nine out of a hundred Britons. However much this is to be deprecated—and it is to be deprecated very strongly—it is undeniable that gold, with all its evils, is making Western Australia at present. Indeed, there would be no self-governing Colony of the name yet had not the huge discoveries of gold in the second lustrum of the Eighties induced rapid immigration, suddenly expanded commerce, the construction of railways, and the

other incidents of vigorous colonisation which make almost imperative the granting of a constitution. Gold is supposed to have been discovered so long ago as 1688, but no attempt was made to work it. Just two centuries afterwards, in 1888, rich alluvial gold was again discovered on the same spot; and now gold is far and away the most important article in the Colony's exports. The trade in the metal began in 1886; the export was valued that year at £1,147. In 1896 its value was £1,068,808. When the returns for 1897 are completed, it is probable that the total value will considerably exceed two millions; and, judging by the extent of the auriferous area, and the fresh indications of wealth which are almost every day appearing therein, there is every reason to believe that Western Australia is only at the beginning of its career as a producer of gold. So great is the Western Australian Government's faith in the Colony's future as a gold producer that it has constructed a mint,

and is aiding the erection of smelting works at Fremantle, to avoid the present necessity of taking refractory ores to Adelaide and elsewhere. It proposes to supply Nature's deficiencies by constructing a canal (at an estimated cost of two and a half millions) to the Coolgardie gold-fields, and to erect public quartz crushers in certain isolated localities for the use and encouragement of small producers.

But now a word of warning. Gold is good, but, as Sir John Forrest, the Premier, told Mr. Faithfull Begg, who, with other Westralian capitalists, waited on the Premier in London last summer, you cannot eat gold. Mr. Begg and his friends seemed to be under the impression that gold is the one thing necessary for the country's health, and they demanded that every other industry should be sacrificed to it. Such a demand implied short-sighted and most mischievous selfishness. Sir John Forrest, though he has made many concessions in the matter of abandon-

ing import duties on certain articles in order to favour gold-mining—I think too many—resolutely refused altogether to sacrifice the Queen of Industries to the Courtesan of Industries. Unhappily, the Westralian Legislature has since passed a resolution favouring Mr. Begg's all-for-gold fiscal theory, and agriculture, I suppose, will soon cease to be fostered into vigorous life by the aid of a Customs tariff. Yet the fostering of agriculture is a far more statesman-like and necessary work than is Government aid to gold-mining. Of the $624\frac{1}{2}$ million acres in Western Australia, only about six million acres are alienated, and of those not more than a third are under cultivation. This means that Western Australia, which might easily become a big exporting country, does not at present grow sufficient cereals to feed its own population. Yet the grain is good, and the wheat lands compare favourably with those of other Australian Colonies and

of wheat-growing countries throughout the world. The average return per acre of Westralian wheat fields for the decade 1885 to 1894 was twelve bushels, and even in the bad year, 1895, 8·09 bushels to the acre were produced, which is twice the amount raised from Victorian and Queensland wheat acres. Moreover, production is cheapened to the Westralian farmer. The Government gives its land away. You can have for the asking 160 acres of land in districts specially selected by the Government for agricultural settlement, and all the Government wants of you in return is that you will be good enough to live on the land for a few years and do some work upon it. Further to help the newly-settled farmer, the Government has established a State Agricultural Bank, which lends money to farmers who lack the capital necessary for improving their land. These homestead areas are all within easy reach of a railway, and they are all in districts which

have an average rainfall sufficient for raising crops.

At present the pastoral industry takes precedence of the agricultural. Nearly 90,000,000 acres are leased for pastoral purposes; the Colony feeds over two and a quarter million sheep, and wool holds second place to gold in the list of Westralian exports. The industry is still going ahead. In 1892 this country received less than six and a half million pounds of wool from West Australia; in 1896 the gross weight exceeded eleven and a half million pounds. Other live stock also show substantial increases during the past decade.

Western Australia, like the rest of the Continent, holds great potentialities as a fruit-growing country, and could produce—and produce well—fruits of tropical, sub-tropical, and temperate zones. Up to the present time these potentialities have been but little exercised, and the Colony imports

to the value of some £20,000 a year fruit which might well be grown in the Colony. It is to be hoped that West Australia's remissness in this regard will soon be remedied ; at the least, the Colony should determine to go seriously into the vineyard business. The West Australian Year Book calculates that, at a low estimate, there are 5,000 square miles in the Colony suited to vine-growing ; there are barely three square miles under cultivation. The average product of wine from existing vineyards was, in 1894, 136 gallons to the acre. Suppose that the whole area available were put under cultivation. On this computation, the Colony's total produce of wine would be 435,200,000 gallons—but little short of the production in Italy ; and, doubtless, with the progress of the industry, the resulting produce would be greater. At present there is plenty of room for improvement. The Westralian vineyards have excellent vine-cuttings imported from South

Australia, but greater skill is necessary in the work of manuring the vineyards and manufacturing the wine.

To the average Briton who ever thinks of Western Australia at all, or thinks of it as other than a conglomeration of gold-mines, the country figures in his vision mostly as a great arid desert. At any rate, he would probably be surprised to learn that in the extra-tropical regions alone there are forests covering an area as large as Great Britain. The trees are varied, but Western Australia takes her main stand as a timber-producing country on jarrah and karri. Both these woods are amongst the finest hardwoods in existence ; they are of great density and durability ; they resist the white ant and the *teredo navalis*, the insect which is so destructive to wooden piles placed in the sea. The jarrah is one of the least inflammable of woods ; and there are few hardwood purposes, from agriculture to furniture, to which

either the jarrah or the karri is not suited. In England these woods are best known for their adaptability to street paving, and for this purpose they are being increasingly used in London and in provincial towns. Piccadilly and Regent Street and the Strand, to name but three thoroughfares, have been paved with jarrah, making, with other streets, already over twenty miles of jarrah-paving in London alone. The Westralian Government expert estimates that the jarrah and karri forests cover 47,000,000 acres, and that their value is not less than 124 millions sterling. Sir John Forrest believes this calculation to be too low, but such a gigantic figure might well satisfy even a Colonial Premier. It would cover the Colony's debt eleven times over ; and such an asset is worth bearing in mind by the critics in this country who profess alarm at the big public debts which West Australia, in common with the other Australasian Colonies, has cheerfully encountered. The total output from the

Westralian saw-mills in 1896 was worth over £400,000.



"KING KARRI"—242 × 40 FEET.

Just a word as to the other mineral resources of Western Australia. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that the Colony is a

mass of iron. To such an extent does it prevail that the magnetic compass cannot be worked with accuracy, and the Government geologist is probably not far beyond the mark when he affirms that his Colony contains enough iron to supply the world. At present these iron deposits are awaiting the enterprise of the capitalist and the arm of the labourer. Lead, tin and copper also exist in abundance; tin and copper are being worked, but the getting of lead has temporarily died down, pending better prices and the application of more capital. Prospecting for coal has not been so successful as in the neighbouring Colonies, but the Government is sufficiently sanguine respecting the merits of the Colony's coalfields to lay down a railway thither from the seaport of Bunbury.

Western Australia's recent progress has been at a rate which far outstrips that of even the most flourishing among the other provinces of the Empire. Her public debt is

only £31 per head of the inhabitants—less than two years' revenue! South Australia and Queensland are solvent and stable, yet their debts are equal to nine times their annual revenues.

Tasmania

TASMANIA is to Australia what the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands are to Britain. The colony has been called by its lovers the "Sanitarium of the South" and the "Garden of Australia." It deserves both appellations. The climate is cooler than on the neighbouring continent, yet it stops short of cold; it is freshened by the sea breezes which surround it, and moistened by a fairly plentiful rainfall, yet it is not humid, and is so invigorating, pure, and generally healthful, that nine children out of every ten born survive the first year of life, and young persons arriving in the colony with the seeds of phthisis in them are said to lose them entirely in a few years. As to the justification

of the second title—that of the “Garden of Australia”—let the Tasmanian apples on our dinner-tables bear witness.

Tasmania was discovered by a Dutchman—Tasman—in 1642. He had been sent out to explore the unknown South by Van Diemen,



the Governor-General of Batavia. So it came that the island was first called Van Diemen's Land, and afterwards by the name of the actual navigator who first sighted its shores. But the Dutchmen seemed in no hurry to follow the advantages of their discovery. One hundred and thirty years later Frenchmen

went there, and a few years after there came a representative of the future owners in the person of Captain Cook. Colonisation began in 1803 by the founding of a British penal settlement.

Tasmania has never felt the big boom ; its progress has been very gradual, the rate of increase since 1861 having been 1·63 per cent. annually, considerably less than that of the other Australasian colonies. Indeed, of late years Tasmania, despite its many attractions, seems to have been overlooked by the emigrant in search of a new home. The population at the beginning of 1897 was 166,111 souls, of whom three-fourths were born in the colony ; the two chief towns, Hobart and Launceston, hold thirty thousand and twenty thousand inhabitants respectively.

It is meet that Tasmania should be Australia's garden, for it cannot, like its sisters, boast of great territories. Its total area, including islands and lakes, is only 16,778,600

acres—a little less than the area of Scotland. Yet, restricted as is its area, it has not yet been fully settled, only 4,766,644 acres having been alienated from the Crown when the latest tables were computed. There are considerable tracts, therefore, awaiting the axe and the



From a photo by]

DELORAINE, TASMANIA.

[Anson, Hobart.

plough, though not so many as the disparity between the amount of alienated land and the total area would indicate, for Tasmania is a mountainous country, and contains over a hundred mountains varying in height between one thousand and six thousand feet. Nearly

all the best pastoral land is already sold. Many acres of agricultural land remain in the hands of the Crown, but they are all more or less heavily timbered and at present difficult of access, though the Government is doing its best by building roads, bridges, and railways to extend transport facilities over the island. This unreclaimed bushland may be bought from the Government at £1 an acre in cash, or 26s. 8d. per acre if paid in fourteen annual instalments. So there is still room for the hardy pioneer to take up his station behind the last settlement, and with a moderate outlay of capital make for himself a thriving agricultural home. On the other hand, the intending immigrant who does not wish to go through the first rough years which reclamation of the land from Nature implies may easily find good developed farms in the market.

Agricultural land in Tasmania differs from that of the bigger colonies in that there are no large areas of a uniform class. The

Official Handbook of the Colony says that it would be difficult to find a farm of even two hundred acres which does not contain



From a photo by]

[Beattie, Hobart.

BALLAST PIT AT SEVEN MILES NORTH-EAST OF DUNDAS TRAM.

two or three different soils. This variety offers to the farmer plenty of scope for the cultivation of different crops ; and mixed culture, though it has certain drawbacks, has

the compensating advantage of giving varied interests to the farmer, and mitigating the evil effects of the lean years in particular crops. The land in variable cultivation is roughly about a quarter of a million acres, and that laid down to permanent artificial grasses is nearly the same. Judging from the return of cereal products, Tasmania compares very well with her sisters. The 1895-96 figures show that her 64,652 acres of wheat lands produced 1,164,855 bushels, which works out to an average of 18·01 bushels to the acre. She is equally fortunate in her root crops. For example, the 19,247 acres of potatoes yielded 81,423 tons—an average of 4·23 tons to the acre—which is considerably better than any other of the colonies in the group (save New Zealand) can show. Hops also flourish luxuriantly, and it bodes well for the Colony's agricultural future that the hop gardens are rapidly taking an important part in Tasmania's rural economy.



From a photo by]

[Beattie, Hobart.

THE CURTAIN-DAVIS MINE, TASMANIA.

But, excellent as are the results of Tasmania's ordinary farming operations, it is as

a producer of temperate-zone fruits that she excels. Here in Britain she is best known by the apples. The quantity of raw apples we received in 1896 from Tasmania reached a total of 152,469 bushels, valued at £77,919. It is not necessary to say more in praise of their quality than to remind you how often comparisons are made between British and Tasmanian apples to the disadvantage of the British. But Tasmanians should not be satisfied with this £78,000 worth of yearly export. In the same year Britain received from the United States raw apples to the value of £672,243. Tasmania should carve a very big slice out of that supply. Nor should she confine herself to the apple trade. Wondrous tales are told of her giant pear trees. There is a tree at Launceston which is eighty-six feet high, and has produced over fifty bushels of fruit in one season. The total value of fruit, jam, and jam pulp exported from the Colony in 1895 was £151,380.

Tasmania is rich in other rural resources. The Colony holds one and a half million sheep, and the export of wool to England in 1896 reached a total of 5,639,920 lbs. A glance at



DRESSING SHEDS AT MOUNT BISCHOFF TIN MINE, TASMANIA.

the illustration on page 111 is sufficient to indicate that Tasmania has no mean wealth of timber, and those trees which cover the hillsides are good hardwoods of commercial value. The saw-milling business shows signs of

development, and the industry should certainly be a success, seeing how near the forests are to shipping ports, enabling the timber to be sold at low prices.

Tasmania, moreover, is a country of mines. Indeed, it is claimed that in proportion to her area she is the richest in mineral wealth of all the Australian Colonies. Already the mines employ between four and five thousand hands. Silver lead ore has at present the largest output, the extraction in 1896 amounting to 21,167 tons, worth £229,662, and, as those well-known properties the Mount Bischoff and the Mount Lyell mines testify, tin and copper also exist in large quantities. The copper mines, however, await the construction of transport facilities for their development; but the tin mines have made such progress that they now stand in the front rank of Tasmania's mineral wealth. The output in 1896 was valued at £285,720.

And the inevitable gold is also found. The

output in 1896 was worth £234,697. Tasmania as a mining country looks like doing big things in the near future.

New Zealand.

THE Fortunate Isles ! 'Tis a ravishing title which Mr. Reeves has given to the Colony he so ably represents in London ; and though, naturally, the head of an emigration office would be inclined to regard his Colony through rose-hued spectacles, one cannot deny that New Zealand has some right to its alluring pseudonym. The thrifty and industrious peasant, driven by economic stress from his own land to find in New Zealand a comfortable home and independence, would be little disposed to deny the claim ; the sportsman, who regards hungrily the Scottish deer forests of his rich neighbour, and can roam freely through the magnificent highlands of New Zealand, where big deer are plentiful,

would raise small objection ; the socialistic reformer, who sees the Earthly Paradise in the extension of State functions, would acclaim the title. The New Woman must look longingly on the land where divorce laws are equal and the parliamentary candidate sues for woman's hand.



New Zealand, like Tasmania, was discovered by Tasman in 1642, but he made little exploitation of his find—he did not trouble even to land. For 127 years afterwards the Maoris were left in undisputed possession. Then came Captain Cook, but settlement was still

delayed. Not until 1825 was colonisation attempted, and then local prejudice — in the persons of the Maoris—caused the attempt to fail. Settlement really began with the founding of Wellington on the 22nd of January, 1840. A week afterwards the Queen's sovereignty was proclaimed, and the Colony was a dependency of New South Wales until 1841. Fifteen years afterwards it received responsible Government. The total area of the Colony is 104,471 square miles, including 438 miles of outlying groups of islands which are practically useless for settlement. The Colony, therefore, is in size about one-seventh less than the United Kingdom. On the 12th of April, 1896, it had a population of 703,360, besides about 40,000 Maoris.

New Zealand is especially interesting to political, social, and economic students, in that this Colony has more boldly adopted the modern socialistic idea than any other State in the civilised world. So far the experiment

seems to have been successful. It is conspicuous in the new system of land tenure, which finds its Charter in the Land Act of 1892. The New Zealand Government believes in keeping the ownership of the land in the hands of the State. It is not dogmatic on the point, and will sell land outright, but it prefers a system of perpetual leases, under which the tenant pays an annual rent of four per cent. on the value. The tenant is secured in his holding, and is, for all practical purposes, an owner, except that the land-tax system precludes him from reaping the reward of unearned increment. This goes to the State, but the tenant has full compensation for any improvements he may make in the land, and is not called upon to pay more in taxation or rent by reason of his own industry and skill. The State also advances money to settlers at five per cent. interest, and only demands repayment of the principal in annual instalments of one per cent. The total area alienated up

to the commencement of April, 1896, was 21,365,182 acres. Including 1,210,340 acres for pastoral runs, the area still open for selection is 2,879,945 acres. In addition to this, and to lands belonging to the Maoris, there remains a total of 16,617,175 acres, of which about a quarter consist of barren mountain tops, lakes, etc. In extent of unsettled country New Zealand cannot compare with the other Australasian Colonies, yet there is room for many more settlers than the land at present holds.

New Zealand's chief industries are the allied productions of wool and frozen mutton. In 1895 the Colony's sheep runs mustered a total of 19,826,604 head, rather more than Queensland's total, and it is confidently predicted that the Colony has not yet half reached her sheep-carrying capacity. Of wool the total annual produce in 1895 was 132,632,901 lbs., an increase of 45·17 per cent. over the clip ten years previously. It is a big amount, but it must

not be assumed that the figures spell over-production, or even the limit of production, for the world's wool clip is over two and a half billion pounds' weight annually ; and, remembering the excellent quality of New Zealand wool and the climatic and other favourable conditions under which it is produced, one cannot deny the existence of room for considerable further expansion in the New Zealand wool trade. The room for expansion is further evidenced when we recollect the great collateral industry which enables New Zealand to make profitable use of her shorn sheep. New Zealand went into the frozen mutton trade in 1882, and the trade has advanced with gigantic strides. In 1896 she sent to us 1,079,109 hundredweights of frozen mutton. She created the trade, and she has still by far the larger share of it ; the efforts of the Argentine Republic have not succeeded in staying her progress. Nor does New Zealand hold the trade by price-cutting to the margin of production cost. The New Zea-

land sheep farmer who delivers carcasses at his shipping port (and in these narrow islands no one is very far from a shipping port), and receive twopence a pound therefor, makes a handsome profit on the transaction.

The increase in cattle during the last decade has been less marked. Still, there has been a substantial increase during the past five years, and the Colony now carries 1,018,776 head. It should carry more, for New Zealand cattle are free from the diseases which afflict cattle in other countries. Indeed, New Zealanders contend that there is only one other country—Iceland—which is similarly immune ; and the Arctic rigour of the Icelandic winter discounts the relative profitableness of stock-raising in Iceland and in New Zealand.

Mention of cattle suggests consideration of New Zealand's dairying capacities. As in Victoria, so in New Zealand, it seems likely that the dairy will in the future form a staple industry. New Zealand has entered on the

struggle for the world's butter and cheese market. Any success she has hitherto gained is attributable to the introduction and growth of the factory system ; and, naturally, in a Colony which appreciates acutely the advantages of democratic association for economic purposes, the co-operative method is entering largely into the dairy factory system. Naturally also, the Government has extended its aid to the industry by appointing a dairy expert and instructors, who visit factories to give lectures and other assistance. So far, it must be confessed, New Zealand butter is more a matter of promise than performance. The factory butter seems to be in the right way ; but the home-made article, of which there is still a good deal produced, is not as a rule of the quality necessary for winning a world market. New Zealanders will doubtless improve in this regard, for everything is in their favour. They have a humid climate and abundance of water ; their sown grass is already ten

times greater than all the rest of Australasia's, and is said to be much more prolific. They have easy access to shipping ports, and they, of all people, should well understand the working of the freezing-chamber. .

Grain at present seems under a slight cloud, but surely a passing cloud, for New Zealand wheat lands are not easily beaten. Hitherto there has been a disposition, common to new countries, to disregard the laws of rotation, and to work the land with one crop year after year for all it is worth. But the New Zealanders are too shrewd a race to pursue this wasteful policy for long. Their land will grow all the cereals and all the root crops in profusion; while as for manures, no land in the world should be better off. The offal of those millions of slaughtered sheep afford an unrivalled profusion of cheap raw material to the artificial-manure manufacturer. Just now oats form the chief cereal export.

The total value of all agricultural produce

raised in New Zealand in 1896 was £5,112,351, about half of this being credited to grain and pulse.

But New Zealand is also going to be a fruit country. It has not done much so far ; but, with its fertile soil and its fine and varied climate, it is capable of producing not only all sorts of British fruits (Auckland's orchards grow excellent apples in abundance, and are worth £40 or £50 per acre in favourable seasons), but those fruits, such as oranges, lemons, olives, and grapes, which need a warmer climate than England's. Cider manufacture is already making good progress, whilst the cultivation of olives and the manufacture of olive oil in the North Island seems likely to become an important industry.

New Zealand cannot compare with the Australian Continent as a timber country ; yet it possesses timber resources of no mean value. The kauri-tree is its speciality. The value of the output of sawn timber in 1895 was

£898,807, which places timber fourth on the list of New Zealand industries. The saw mills alone employ over 4,000 hands. Of not less importance than the kauri tree is the kauri gum, which is so largely used for the manufacture of oil varnish and for glazing calico. (It has also a surreptitious use in the matter of "amber" pipe stems.) Kauri gum is fourth on the list of exports, no less than 7,425 tons (at £56 8s. a ton) having been sent away in 1895. Kauri gum digging, is not, perhaps, the most profitable of mining industries, but it affords a fair living to the workman who prefers a vagrant, independent life to settled work or the chance of a fortune ; and it has proved of great service to the unemployed in times of commercial depression.

I have left gold to the last paragraph, not because the industry is unimportant—for gold is third on the list of New Zealand's exports, and the industry has recently received a fillip—but because other industries stand out more

prominently in a view of New Zealand's industrial future ; 293,491 ozs. of gold were produced in 1895, and their value was £1,162,164. Though the palmy days of New Zealand's gold-mining was the decade following the rush to Gabriel's Gully in 1861, there is good hope that with the better methods of mining and treatment of the ores recently introduced, the future of New Zealand gold will for many years to come be little less prosperous than has been the past.

The value of the coal raised in New Zealand in 1895 was £410,762, but this comparatively small production is no criterion of the Colony's coal resources. These have been roughly estimated at 444,000,000 tons, and the quality of that raised up to the present has stood severe tests of excellence. The industry awaits hard labour improvements for its development.

North America

ONE of the main difficulties which beset the sketching of a panoramic view of the Empire is the trouble in avoiding too frequent superlatives. Here have I been relating some few of the industrial glories of Australasia — holding the adjectives in check with a tight rein, 'tis true ; but the barest requirements of accuracy made it imperative to give them their head to a certain extent. And now, when I would fain sober down into quiet substantives, the North American Continent comes into view ; and it holds the greatest of all the Empire's divisions. Let me ease enthusiasm by statistics. You could enclose Australasia within Canada's boundaries, and you would have about 400,000

square miles left over—space almost for France and Germany. You could put nearly the whole of Europe into the Canadian borders. If the British Indies were three times as large as they are, they could be fitted into Canada, and there would still be room for Queensland and Vic-



toria. The Dominion is more than forty times the size of Great Britain, her mother, and accounts for nearly a third of the whole Empire. From north to south she measures 1,400 miles ; from east to west, 3,500. The distance between her extreme northern and her extreme southern points is the distance between Constantinople's

latitude and that of the North Pole. Her area, in a word, is 3,456,383 square miles, of which 140,736 are covered with water.

We are too apt to think of North America as a place given over each Fourth of July to universal rejoicing at liberation from England. It is a geographical mistake to think so. All the Yankee territory combined—saving that disjointed peninsula and strip of barren coast line which was purchased from Russia—could be fitted into British North America, and the area left over would accommodate France, Germany, and Austro-Hungary. The population of Canada is something over 5,000,000. If it were 500 millions, the country would only be about half as thickly settled as the United Kingdom.

Canada (which is said by some to have got its name from an Indian town in the country) is ours by right of discovery. John and Sebastian Cabot were the first navigators who sighted British North America, and they sailed under King

Henry the Seventh's commission. That was in 1497. The coast they touched was either Labrador or Cape Breton. Brother Sebastian, the King's Grand Pilot, found Hudson's Bay in 1517. It was not until 1524 that the Frenchmen came along ; but their belated arrival did not prevent them fighting us for possession of the continent. In 1534 their representative, Jacques Cartier, formally took possession of Canada on behalf of the French ; and that led to trouble. France made her first settlement at Quebec in 1608, and called the country New France. In 1698, New France, the French Possession, fought New England, the British Possession. There has been a transformation since then. New England is now the foreign state ; the transmuted " New France " the British Possession. Yet through the first half of the eighteenth century the position was reversed. George Washington himself, in 1754, fought Canadian France for Great Britain. The Frenchmen struggled long

for possession of North America, and it was not until 1760 that they gave up, and left Canada to settle down to progress under the British flag. But not immediately to peace. The Fleur de Lys had not gone home more than fifteen years when the Stars and Stripes arose to trouble the Colony. During the Revolution Canada was true to England. Neither then, nor at any subsequent period, did she ever even flirt with separation. Not even during the miserable Forties and Fifties and Sixties, when Britons at home were snivelling at the yoke of Empire, did the Britishers in North America once dream of accepting the half-veiled invitation to cut themselves adrift from the Mother Land.

The Canadian Colony was granted responsible government in 1841, though it was not definitely established until 1847. But the first chapter in the Canadian Dominion's history really opens—the records of earlier colonization are but a preface—in 1867, when the Provinces

were federated. In this branch of our Empire there are now united, in the closest bonds of inter-colonial free trade and Parliamentary union, the great eastern provinces of Ontario and Quebec ; the Atlantic Coast Colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island ; Manitoba—the new western home of magnificent wheat production ; British Columbia (with Vancouver's Island)—the New England of the North Pacific ; the huge districts now opening into life, Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Athabasca, Keewatin, Ungava, Yukon, Franklin, and the vast region generally known as the North-West Territories, stretching away to the Arctic Ocean. Only Newfoundland (with the Labrador Coast) still holds aloof.

In 1879 Canada embarked on what is known as the "National Policy," an integral part of which is a protective tariff. For Canada has manufacturing ambitions. It is right that she should not be entirely dependent on the Mother

Country for every manufactured article, still more right that she should not be compelled to go a-shopping to her jealous neighbour over the border ; but Canada as a manufacturing nation is in her raw infancy. Indeed, her manufactures can hardly be said to be really born yet, despite the significant smoke pall which overhangs Montreal. For the present it is more important for Canada to remember that there are yet a few million acres of land to bring under the plough, and some primary industries which could bear more development. To-day the chief industries which sustain Canada's progress are Farming, Lumbering, Fishing and Mining.

FIELD AND FARM

When Canada belonged to France, a French king described it as "a few acres of snow." The wisdom of Solomon is not always found on thrones; and the most elementary knowledge was in this case lacking. True, there are snow-fields in plenty for the trapper to roam over in pursuit of furs. So there are vast plains browsed by myriad cattle. So there are rich prairies whose wheat is at the top of the world's market. So there are succulent meadows which give of their increase in butter and cheese and bacon. So there are gardens and orchards whose produce is worthy of any country. Even the vineyards—Nature's warrant of genial sunshine—make purple patches on the country-side. The United States' tariff gives the lie direct to the French king's silly phrase: Canadian products are mulcted in heavier penalties than similar products from

other countries. Neither (for illustration of Canada's agricultural capacities) does it matter much which branch of field industry you regard. Is it grain? "Manitoba No. 1 hard" wheat took the gold medal against the world's competition at the Millers' and Bakers' Exhibition in London; and quality is not unsupported by quantity: the yield of Manitoban farms is higher than on the best farms across the border. Is it dairy produce? Watch the mounting export of Canadian butter and hams and bacon to Britain, and remember that more than half our imported cheese is made in Canada. Is it fruit? Nova Scotia's apples vie with Tasmania's and the United States' for pride of place in the London import market; while in quantity they exceed those of the United States, and, omitting the Yankee fruit, are much greater than the import of all other countries and colonies combined. Is it hops? Those grown in British Columbia command from 3 to 4 cents per lb. more than the Cali-

fornian. Flax? The soil of Manitoba and the North-West Territories is so rich it can scarcely grow good fibre, but it is prolific with excellent flax seed.



ON THE OTTAWA RIVER AT MATTAWA, ONTARIO.

Nearly half the population lives by agriculture. When the 1891 census was taken, the improved lands were found to reach a total of 28,537,242 acres, of which 19,904,826 acres were under crop (an increase of over 30 per cent. on the previous decade's record), and

464,462 acres were covered by gardens and orchards. About 10 per cent. of the Dominion's area was under either crop or pasture. At present the great wheat countries in the Dominion are Manitoba and Ontario, but the younger Province now bids fair to outstrip her sister. She had 260,842 acres under wheat in 1883 ; in 1896 the area stood at 999,598 acres. 1895 had seen a yet greater acreage, but spring frosts in 1896, and a certain glut in the market caused by the huge yield of 1895, caused a reduction in 1896. 1896, too, was a lean year, the average yield being only 14·33 bushels to the acre, against the 27·86 bushels of 1895. But 1897 has set the temporary depression right. Though Manitoba's yield has been very prolific, yet, consequent on the pooriness of the crops in other countries, there has been no glut. Alike in quality and productiveness Manitoba has now established a leading position, and compares most favourably not only with the Yankee wheat lands, but with those of most

other new countries and of some old ones. Canada's wheat yield is nearly five bushels per acre greater than that of the United States. Her total wheat and flour export in 1896 was



From a photo by]

[R. Maynard.

A BRITISH COLUMBIAN FARM.

14,318,607 bushels. In addition she sent home 840,726 bushels of barley, 2,499,080 bushels of maize, and 3,488,669 bushels of other grains. But the Dominion will have to give a much

better account of herself in the future. Her wheat output is still but little more than an eighth that of the United States, and it might easily be greater. Even in the older Province are possibilities of wide expansion; while the newer lands in the West—Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan—contain nearly 239 million acres of land, adapted to farming of one sort or another, and less than 8 million acres are as yet occupied.

I have already referred to the extensive and promising character of the Canadian dairy industry. Cheese is the speciality. Recent years show a regular progress in this branch. We received from Canada in 1868, 54,835 cwt.; in 1880, 360,435 cwt.; in 1890, 832,680 cwt.; in 1896 a total of 1,234,297 cwt. was reached. Sensible up-to-date methods of production and uniform excellence of product, with a total absence of adulteration, are the secret here. Butter is of much smaller importance, and the statistics of recent years are too fluctuating to

be valuable as guides ; but there is every reason to believe that the upward bound of 1896 marks no spasmodic movement, but rather the beginning of a fresh era in the march to permanent prosperity. Even Japan has now taken



FALLS ON THE MISSISSIPPI, AT ALMONTE, ONTARIO.

to eating butter from Assiniboia. And considering the illimitable natural resources of the Dominion, the energetic assistance to the industry given by the Government, and the recent improvement in quality, it would be strange if

Canadian butter did not force itself successfully on the market. The necessity for winter feeding is no great hardship on the farmer—certainly it is no bar to success ; for Canadian farming, particularly in the older Provinces, is mostly mixed, and maize and horse beans, which can be converted into excellent fodder, grow well in most parts of the country.

As regards the meat supply, Canada's time is to come even more pronouncedly than in the case of bread-stuffs. The Canadian Year Book for 1895, working on the 1893-4 figures, makes out the annual supply of meat to England by the Dominion to be 33,165,528 lbs. This represented 2·9 per cent. of England's total meat import: the United States had 56·7 per cent. And that, emphatically, has to be altered. True, the proportions seem to be in progress of alteration. The figures for the years between 1892 and 1896 show increases in all Canada's meat exports to this country. The biggest ratio is in fresh beef, which

bounded up from 154 to 9,109 cwt. The biggest actual rise is in bacon, from 239,121 to



From a photo by]

[Maxwell.

SMELTER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SMELTING AND REFINING
COMPANY.

456,723 cwt.; the total increase was from 361,344 to 657,750 cwt. The figures for the United States, on the other hand, show a slight

decrease on the total—viz., from 6,871,549 to 6,848,971 cwt. In bacon, where Canada has made most progress, the Yankees have fallen off by nearly 145,000 cwt. All this is pleasing enough ; but when you compare the total figures of the two countries, and see that Canada's contribution is less than 10 per cent. of the United States', satisfaction is chastened. Taking food stuffs of all sorts, we find that England's imports in which Canada competed were valued in 1896 at 600,296,865 dollars. Towards the total Canada contributed 42,935,657 dollars' worth—a little over one-fourteenth.

The Government gives land away to settlers. A comparison of farming promise and farming performance makes one wish anxiously for the appearance of emigrants willing and fitted to accept the Government's gift.

WHAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
DOES.

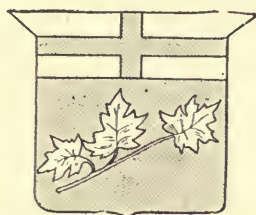
To my mind the most impressive feature of the Canadian Governmental system is the care which it lavishes on the Dominion's agriculture. To enumerate with anything like completeness the benefits which the Government bestows upon Canadian agriculturists would be impossible within the limits at my disposal. I can but sketch briefly some specimen features.

A few years ago the Department of Agriculture appointed Mr. James W. Robertson to be Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying for the Dominion. Professor Robertson and his assistants travel up and down the Dominion giving lectures to the farmers, telling them how to establish creameries and cold storage buildings, versing them in the art of winter butter-making, doing everything possible to stir up intelligent interest amongst the farmers, and

directing their interests into the right channels. In addition, these gentlemen look vigorously after the market for Canadian produce. They confer with railway and steamship companies, they come to Britain to try to push Canadian products on the British market, and get a good price therefor. They are continually engaged in the preparation of bulletins and reports for the farmers' guidance. These documents, which are widely distributed, give practical instruction in most of the subjects concerning which a farmer needs knowledge—from the preparation of poultry for British markets to the best means of handling the dreaded tuberculosis. In respect to this disease the Agricultural Department not only gives the farmer detailed printed instructions how to test its presence, but in case the farmer feels diffidence as to his diagnosing powers, it is prepared to send down an officer to test the cattle free of charge.

The Government also encourages farmers by the offer of bonuses. At one time it gave a

bonus on the export of cheese, and the figures I have transcribed to show the mounting character of the trade certainly tend to indicate that the bounty had an exhilarating effect. Having achieved its purpose, it has now been withdrawn, but other aids have taken its place. Thus the Government offers a bonus of a hundred dollars to all creamery owners who put



ONTARIO

up cold storage rooms of a particular pattern in their creameries, illustrative drawings being furnished by the Government. Some hundreds of farmers, I understand, have applied for these drawings, and a considerable proportion of them are earning the bonuses.

Professor Robertson rightly attaches great importance to the cold storage system. It is

not so necessary for hard cheese, which can stand an ordinary atmosphere, but it is exceedingly useful in the transport and keeping of soft cheese, the manufacture of which is now being encouraged in Canada ; while for butter-making on the larger scale it is almost indispensable. To the extension of the cold storage system is attributed, in a great measure, the impetus which the Canadian butter trade with England has received during the past year or two. In 1894 we bought 438,589 dollars' worth of Canadian butter; in 1896 our purchases reached a value of 1,653,421 dollars ; and that enhanced figure represents not only an increased volume of trade, but also an increase in the prices commanded by the butter. Up to a short time ago Canadian butter had not a particularly good reputation in the British market. Now—though the price is still some way below the top—it looks like holding its own with the Danish. The advance, though perhaps mainly owing to the better and more uniform quality

of butter now being made under the factory system, is yet in no small measure due to the introduction of cold storage. The Dominion Government has now arranged for what Professor Robertson describes as "a chain of cold storage service from the producer in Canada to the consumer in Great Britain"; for not only is it inducing creamery owners to have refrigerating rooms on their own premises, it has also persuaded the railway companies to put refrigerating cars on their trains, which call at different centres at stated times, and carry the produce without extra charge. Then it aids the construction of cold storage buildings at export centres, at Toronto (which is a big railway centre), and at Revelstoke in British Columbia, which is a point of distribution for the mining district of the North-West. A Government inspector is appointed to overhaul the cold storage arrangements generally, and another is stationed at Montreal to look after the consignments during transshipment from rail to steamer.

Finally, the Government has induced steamship companies to put refrigerating chambers in their vessels (seventeen ships were so running in the first year—1896), has guaranteed the companies against loss in the early stages of the business, and has arranged that the extra charge for the chamber shall not exceed ten shillings for a ton of butter—less, that is, than a halfpenny for ten pounds; and the whole freight across the Atlantic only amounts to about a farthing per pound. The cold storage system is not to be confined to butter and soft cheese, but is extended to eggs, dressed meats, tomatoes, and various kinds of fruit.

For the purpose of encouraging fruit growing the Agricultural Department has recently erected a cold storage building at Grimsby, Ontario, which is the centre of the Canadian fruit district. Whether these efforts will result in a large extension of Canada's fruit-export trade is at present somewhat a matter of conjecture, as the thing is only in the experi-

mental stage ; but from a conversation I had a short time since with Professor Robertson in Ottawa, I gathered that the prospect is hopeful. Tomatoes, especially, look like doing well, but a difficulty was found in pushing the trade with England in grapes. The Canadian grape has not the juiciness to which an Englishman is accustomed. It is a different kind of fruit—good, but rather small, and of a pulpy texture.

Undoubtedly Canada will make big inroads on the butter market. Her wonderful success in the cheese business warrants the rosiest expectations. The present preponderance of cheese over butter is attributed to the capacity of cheese for travelling in ordinary temperatures. Difference in quality and reputation has, I expect, more to do with the case ; but there is good chance of approximation here, and in that event the provision of cold storage at so nominal a cost should put the more delicate butter on an equal footing with cheese.

Butter will also get an impetus from the efforts which the Agricultural Department is making, and with success, towards getting the cheese-makers to practise butter-making in winter. The manufacture of cheese is a summer occupation, and if that alone is followed, the factory lies idle during the winter. Professor Robertson and his assistants are teaching the people how to turn their cheese factories into butter factories during this off-season. The Agricultural Department goes even farther. In the North-West Territories it undertakes to make the butter for the farmers, and market it, at a small charge to cover the service, for a period of at least three years : that is, for the time during which the Government loan for the creamery association runs.

To illustrate the vigilance with which the Canadian Government watches for an opportunity of promoting Canadian agriculture and bringing its products to the world's notice, let me recall to your memory the mammoth cheese

which it sent to the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893. This cheese weighed 22,000 lbs. It consumed 207,200 lbs. of milk—a quantity



From a photo by]

[R. Maynard.

CHERRY CREEK BLUFF, KAMLOOPS LAKE, ON THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

equal to the milk for one day in September of 10,000 cows. It measured 28 feet in circumference, by 6 feet in height. Six other cheeses,

weighing 1,000 lbs. each, which went to build up the pyramid, looked quite insignificant beside this monster. Even Yankees, who claim to have the biggest on earth of everything, must have opened their eyes before this example of what the Canadian Dominion could do when it set itself to the work of advertisement and big production. And the cheese was a genuine cheese, of excellent quality all through; the judges bored it to a depth of thirty-three inches, and found it uniformly solid. They reported it sound from rind to centre, with a good clean flavour, and so generally excellent that it scored 95 points out of a possible hundred. The "Canadian Mite" was afterwards appropriately shipped to the Mother Country.

Of equal importance with Professor Robertson's work is that of Dr. Saunders and the Experimental Farms over which he presides. The farms of the Dominion Government are five in number: the Central Farm near Ot-

tawa, and the four branch farms at Nappan, Nova Scotia ; at Brandon, Manitoba ; at Indian Head, Assiniboia ; and at Agassiz, British Columbia. There is also an Experimental Farm at Guelph, Ontario, with an agricultural college attached, which are run by the Provincial Government. It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of these farms or the benefits which they confer on Canadian agriculture. Recently I enjoyed the privilege of being conducted over the Central Farm by Dr. Saunders. The visit removed from my mind the last vestige of surprise at the bound which Canadian agriculture has taken during recent years. Every branch of the husbandman's art is zealously and most carefully followed by experts. Numberless experiments, for example, are made with the different varieties of grains for the purpose of discovering the most prolific sorts for particular soils and the best times for planting them. New varieties are evolved by cross-fertilising experi-

ments, sample bags of seed grain of the choicest kinds are distributed free to any farmer who will take the trouble to send along his address. In the laboratory the chemist is busy testing different sorts of soils and the manures most suited to them. He has also recently conducted some valuable experiments as to the food properties of certain plants. One other branch of his work must be quoted. He invites farmers to send him samples of their well water, that he may test them and report upon their purity. This is done free of charge, and last year forty-four farmers availed themselves of the opportunity. 'Twas as well they did, by the way, for nearly half were condemned as quite unfit for use, and several more were returned as suspicious.

Similarly, experiments are being conducted with live stock. I saw pigs of different breeds undergoing dietary experiments. Careful data were being collected concerning the effect on the weight, etc., of the animals under the vary-

ing food treatments. The Farm also keeps boars and bulls of the most valuable breeds for the use of farmers who would otherwise find it difficult to get their cows and sows served by animals of the required kind. Then there is the Department of the Botanist and Entomologist, who, among other matters, devotes a lot of attention to insect pests and the best means for their removal. There are also the Horticulturist and the Poultry Manager, who strive to promote those branches of rural work which lie within their scope. Constantly advice is being given by letter to farmers who apply for it, and in addition printed bulletins are from time to time prepared for their guidance. I have a selection of these bulletins before me as I write. They give practical information concerning the cultivation of flax and raspberries and strawberries, detail the result of experiments on trial plots of various crops, tell the farmer how to spray his fruit trees to avoid fungous diseases, how to get

rid of weeds and potato blight, and the black knot in plums and cherries. But I could desecrate for pages on the numerous excellent features of the Canadian Experimental Farms. Let what I have written suffice as specimens of their work. Enough at any rate has been said to prepare the reader for almost anything in the way of progress in agricultural Canada. Enough also has surely been said to set the reader wondering why the wealthy Mother Country, with her expensively organised Board of Agriculture, cannot do something similar for the sorely depressed rural industries of Britain. Truly the Daughter has put the Mother to shame.

It may perhaps be asked, Do the farmers take advantage of the experiments conducted on their behalf? Doubtless they do not to the full extent they might; for farmers the world over are characteristically slow to get out of a groove, and the farmers of Canada live for the most part in scattered loneliness, where

the absence of frequent communication with any considerable number of their fellows must tend to damp the progressive spirit ; and, moreover, the Experimental Farms only commenced their existence about ten years ago. It is nevertheless a fact that farmers do avail themselves to no small extent of these advantages. Dr. Saunders, for example, reports encouragingly of the practical results which are following the introduction by the Experimental Farms into the North-West of the Awnless Brome grass, which is of great value there both for hay and pasture, enduring severe drought and cold with impunity. He speaks of its general introduction as preparing the way for vast extensions of the stock-raising and dairy industries.

THE FRUIT TEST

Canada's development has been much retarded by the evil reputation under which its climate has laboured. Now, it would be silly to ignore facts : Canada has a cold winter ; in the north central districts it is long and intensely cold. But people who have not been to Canada form exaggerated views of the matter ; it is not half so bad as they imagine. Indeed, take it on the whole, one may doubt if it is any worse than, though it differs from, an English winter. Most people who know it prefer its sunshine and exhilarating air to the damp fogs and chilly winds of England. But the point I would have you note now is that Canada shows a marked capacity for growing many kinds of fruit ; and the country which exhibits that aptitude obviously cannot be an unbearably cold place to live in. The orchard, and more particularly the vineyard, form a reli-

able criterion of a country's habitableness. Of course, I am not contending that the whole, or anything like the whole, of the vast Dominion is suited to fruit culture; though it is worth remembering that Miss E. Taylor has



RAPIDS IN THE GATINEAU RIVER, AT CHELSEA, QUEBEC.

collected native wild raspberries on Peel's River, thirty miles north of the Arctic Circle, and other travellers have gathered specimens of the same fruit in remarkably high latitudes. But in many large areas of Canada the open-

air culture of various fruits is not only possible, it is profitable, and will doubtless be extended as the years go on. Nova Scotia and Ontario are already famous for their apples, the Niagara Peninsula, where grapes grow as a field crop, producing enormous yields; peach trees are also planted out in orchards, and plums and small fruits of all varieties known to temperate climates attained high rank at the World's Columbian Exposition; while many parts of the Pacific slope and Vancouver Island are eminently adapted for fruit growing, and it will be surprising if the market does not hear a good deal of their produce before many years. Even that final test of genial weather—the local production of wine—is present in Canada. Canadian brands do not yet figure on our hotel wine lists; but that is only because the industry is in an undeveloped and infantile stage, and because, of all people, wine-bibbers are the most conservative devotees of old-established reputations.

Of course, as in every other branch of useful industry, the Government is doing its best to encourage production. The Ontario Government has recently established fruit experiment stations in the Province, and, as I have shown, the Dominion Government is doing its best to promote cheap transportation and good mar-



QUEBEC

kets. In a country where almost everything is in the earliest stages of development, statistics of achievement give but a poor notion of future possibilities ; but it may be interesting to learn that, according to the estimate of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, that Province alone held, in 1896, 5,913,906 apple trees of bearing age, yielding a total product of

55,895,755 bushels. It is also estimated that in the same year the Province contained 700,000 plum trees, 500,000 cherry trees, the same number of pear and peach trees, and 2,000,000 grape vines; which, after all, is not a bad record for "a few acres of snow."

But it is only within recent years that the Canadians themselves have begun to wake up to their possibilities as fruiterers. Strawberry-growing is a case in point. As Mr. John Craig, horticulturist to the Central Experimental Farm, pointed out in a recent bulletin on the subject of strawberries, ten years ago the cultivation of this fruit was restricted to a few localities, and many districts which now grow strawberries freely were supposed at that time to be quite uncongenial, and beds were never planted. Now a flourishing industry is growing up, and along the St. Lawrence River and the eastern shore of Lake Ontario strawberry culture has already become quite a feature of rural industry. Mr. Craig even gives direc-

tions for the growth of strawberries in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and is evidently of opinion that there, too, they can be ripened successfully, if proper precautions



HIGH FALLS AND LUMBER SLIDE ON DU LIÈVRE RIVER, TWENTY-FIVE MILES ABOVE BUCKINGHAM, QUEBEC.

are taken in summer to protect the plants from wind and drought, and extra protection be given them against the cold in winter.

THE FOREST

Is there a boy whose imagination the mere mention of the Canadian Backwoods does not set aflame with visions of trackless forests, through which the heroic trapper trails his way, and where the still more heroic Indian brains his foe with myriad blows of tomahawk? Life—boyhood life—has been nobly enriched by the Canadian forests, and now these forests are serving (in a sordid, literal sense) to enrich the world with their timber. This base utilitarianism must hit every healthy minded youngster with a shock of disillusionment. Let him try to learn that the exploitation on a great scale of natural wealth is, in its way, as magnificent an enterprise as the exploitation of the red men's scalps.

He is a bold statistician who attempts an exact estimate of Canada's forest wealth. The Hudson Bay Company has isolated stations

scattered about the country, and Indians' and trappers' canoes flit, at long intervals, along the rivers and lakes which intersect the woods ; but the great forest regions of northern Ontario and Quebec are as yet for the most part



RIDEAU FALLS, AT OTTAWA.

untrodden by the white man. And herein lies the impossibility of estimating, with any semblance of accuracy, the extent of Canada's forest wealth. It is really not safe, when treating of the subject, to hazard a more definitely statistical calculation than is implied

in the adjective "immense." It was only two years ago that the existence, or at least the course, of a big river draining into James Bay was discovered for the Government by Dr. Bell.* Its basin, then for the first time explored, comprises an area of some 70,000 square miles ; and Dr. Bell reports that it contains "an almost inexhaustible supply of the finest pulp wood," to say nothing of good spruce and tamarack timber. About the same time Mr. O'Sullivan, in the Province of Quebec, was exploring, not far from Dr. Bell's territory, an unknown region beyond the sources of the Ottawa River, some 50,000 square miles in extent, and of it he reported that there was very little doubt but it held "an abundance of mercantile timber, principally

* A Hudson Bay factor told me that he and his men had known of the river for many years past, but the Hudson Bay people are slow to make public their knowledge ; and it is still significant of the unexplored vastness of the country that the Government surveyors should have remained in ignorance.

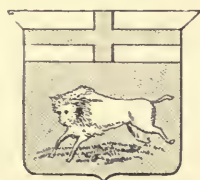
tamarack, of which there is a sufficient quantity to supply sleepers for all the railways in the Dominion." (There are 16,000 miles of railway in the Dominion.) We are therefore dealing with an unknown quantity when we speak of Canada's forest wealth, though we know that every fresh exploration of regions hitherto assumed to comprise rocky wildernesses discloses the existence of a further area of virgin forest, which far more than compensates for the denudation of the settled districts in the South.

Speaking generally, it may be said that of old the Canadian forests extended westerly from the Atlantic, in an almost unbroken stretch for 2,000 miles, to the head of Lake Superior. Then, continuing west, came the sparsely-timbered region of the great plains; but when the Rockies were mounted, their western slopes displayed another timber region reaching down to the Pacific. To-day the southerly edge of the eastern forest has been

broken up ; but the great mass remains intact, and in British Columbia all the efforts of the lumber pioneers have made so far but petty inroads on the expanse of giant conifers. Nevertheless, Canada is already the world's fourth largest exporter of forest products, giving place only to Sweden and Norway, Russia, and Austria. On a basis per head of the population she stands second on the list. The value of Canada's forest export in 1896 was 6,067,741 dollars ; but this figure does not include sawn timber, staves, ashes, etc., all of which are classed under the head of manufactures. Of these (which for the most part consist of forest products) the export in 1896 was worth 30,476,932 dollars ; 1897 has been even a better year than 1896. In Montreal they talk of it as "a record breaking season in the export timber business." The shipments from that port reached a length of 300,420,069 feet ; and, although this figure does not include certain "sundry shipments," it is an increase of

79,416,460 feet over the grand total of 1896.

The forest leases (the forest lands are mostly leased from the Provincial Governments) covered, in 1894, 79,387 square miles, and the various industries depending on the wood supply have an invested capital of nearly 100,000,000 dollars, an annual wage list of



MANITOBA

over 30,000,000 dollars, and an annual output valued at over 100,000,000 dollars. The Canadian Agricultural Department's statistician was certainly not guilty of more than pardonable exaggeration when he reported that "the forests of Canada are her greatest heritage." And yet the lumber trade is not now making the progress its potentialities warrant. True,

comparing the years 1892 and 1896, we find a growth in the value of England's timber imports from Canada (mainly sawn wood) from £3,756,719 to £4,206,094, which represents rather more than a quarter of the total import. But the Dominion might do bigger things. In British Columbia the annual output is about 83,000,000 feet, worth about 1,000,000 dollars. But the neighbouring State of Washington ships nine times as much, though British Columbia has as good facilities for handling timber, and the wood commands a ten per cent. better price. Moreover, British Columbia has a marvellous acreage yield. About 85 per cent. of her timber is Douglas fir, a tree which grows to such splendid proportions that over 508,000 feet of timber have been felled on one acre in Vancouver Island.

The chief need is transport facilities, and these should be waterways rather than railways. Water transit is at present the general method of transporting logs from the woods to the

mills. As a rule, it is the only method, and it is the ideal method of conveyance, not only for logs, which make their way unaided through the water, but also for sawn wood, which needs the help of barges. Planks are not perishable



PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, OTTAWA.

merchandise ; they can take their time on the journey, and they should be carried as cheaply as possible—more cheaply than a railway company can afford to convey them.

Now the forest region of Canada is full of lakes and rivers. These need to be connected,

and their more formidable rapids outflanked by the construction of canals. Much has already been done in this direction. The Imperial and Provincial Governments have spent nearly 80,000,000 dollars on the making and maintenance of waterways, and there is every reason to hope that they will continue this statesman-like expenditure; for much more is needed. Private enterprise is also getting to work, and the projected canalising of the chain of lakes and rivers from Ottawa to Georgian Bay (continuing the Government's work from Montreal to Ottawa) will, when completed, be of almost incalculable service to the lumber development of Northern Ontario and Quebec. It will be the channel to bring the industry in that region into full existence. It will place the northern region within easy communication with both east and west—the Atlantic ports for Europe, and Chicago, the market where the dwellers on the prairie purchase their stores of timber. When this canal is constructed, and

particularly when logging railways are thrown out as feeders into the heart of the forest, the silent regions of the North should soon be set a-ringing with the blows of axes.



FALLS ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, ONTARIO.

A most important industry thus to be developed is the manufacture of wood pulp. Already the canalising of the rapids at Sault Ste. Marie has given this industry an admirable impetus, and the new pulp mills erected hard by the docks are claimed to be the largest in

the world. The strides which the pulp industry has made in recent years give promise of magnificent progress in the future. Within ten years of its small beginnings it got a capital of nearly three million dollars, and has attained to an annual output worth over a million dollars. And the quality matches the quantity. Canadian pulp has sold in England for £5 3s. 4d. a ton, when Scandinavian pulp could make no more than £4 6s. 6½d.

Canadian pulp, also, is superior to that of the United States. For that reason, and for the further reason that the Yankee supply of spruce is pitifully small compared with Canada's, the United States admit Canadian pulp wood free of duty. Now, when the most protectionist and the "cutest" nation in the world admits an article free of tariff, it is time for the nation which sends that article to commune with itself, and consider the advisability of checking the export. In the present case the Dominion would be well advised in

putting an export duty on pulp wood, for the manufacture of pulp and the articles therefrom is going to be a huge and profitable industry in the future, and there is no direction in which Canada's manufacturing ambitions can so well be realized as in it. 'Twould be a thousand pities, therefore, to hand it, or any large part of it, over to the Yankees.



NOVA SCOTIA

There are three stages at which the export trade in this industry may be taken. The wood may be sent away in blocks for manufacture into pulp, or the blocks may be pulverised at home and the pulp exported, or the pulp also may be converted at home into paper or the many other articles which can be made from it. This last is the ideal stage ;

but in the present undeveloped state of Canadian manufacture this is only practicable in a very modest degree, and if Canada were to pursue it vigorously she would only shut herself off from the profitable supplying of United States and European mills with a commodity which to them is a raw material, but to Canada is a manufacture. But she should not go to the other extreme, and ship the wood straight away from the forests to the foreign pulp factories. That she is doing this, however, may be seen from her export returns for the last few years. The value of pulp wood exported in 1892 was 219,458 dollars. By progressive stages it had reached 627,825 dollars in 1896, and the United States returns show that the rate of progress was being maintained in 1897.

But, it is more satisfactory to learn, the export of pulp is also growing and almost doubled itself in five years. In '92 its value was 355,303 dollars; in '96 it was 675,777

dollars. (When I speak of years here I mean the Canadian fiscal years, which end on the 30th of June.)

At present the chief use for pulp wood is the manufacture of paper, but the things which can be made from it comprise an almost indefinite list. Wood-pulp is easily moulded ; it is very hard, without being in the least brittle—is, indeed, practically unbreakable ; it is also unflammable. Imagine, then, the varied uses to which it can be put. It is bound to effect quite a revolution in many branches of manufacture when its uses become better known, and conservative traditions are broken through. In the articles now made of earthenware, to take one instance, the use of pulp wood should in time become well-nigh universal. The manufacture of such articles in Canada has already been successfully commenced, but up to the present chiefly for home consumption ; very little is exported yet. But the industry has a great future, and capitalists in search of a

new field of enterprise might well turn their attention to it. The Canadian forests will feed them with all the raw material they would need, for those vast forests in Northern Ontario and Quebec of which I have been speaking are very largely composed of spruce, from which wood-pulp is chiefly made. For years past a wicked waste has been going on. Mining prospectors have maliciously fired forests in order to make their work easy, Indians and trappers have fired the forests through carelessness, lumbermen have cut down saplings and so hindered the regrowth of the wood. But, even if this present waste goes on unchecked, it will take many, many years to exhaust the spruce woods of Canada. It is to be hoped, however, and it is likely, that effective measures will be taken by the Government to check the scandalous waste, and then the supply of spruce may continue for all time.

THE FISHERIES

“Salmon afford to the settler an unlimited supply of the richest manure.” Think of it, ye British sportsmen who pay hundreds a year to fish short reaches in the Tweed. I extracted this marvellous sentence from a pamphlet on “Vancouver Island as a Home for Settlers.” Perusal of it prepares one to digest more easily the stories of river steamers in British Columbia being stopped by reason of their paddle-wheels getting clogged with salmon. But even Englishmen know something of British Columbia’s wealth of salmon. In grocers’ shops throughout the country—throughout the world, one might almost say—the tin of canned salmon acts as a continual advertisement of the fact. Indeed, until the Klondyke boom set folks a-thumbing their atlases to see where on earth the Yukon district lay, and found that you reached it *viâ* British Columbia, the Pro-

vince was chiefly known on this side of the Atlantic as the place where the tinned salmon comes from. In '96 the salmon caught in the Dominion and sold reached a value of £778,000 ; about three-fourths of it would be credited to British Columbia. The waters there are marvellously prolific, and not the slightest signs of exhaustion are apparent ; indeed, the slaughter of the seals on the Pacific coast is said to have made the salmon more numerous than ever ; and the '97 salmon pack in British Columbia, though prices were down about 15 per cent. on the previous year, reached the unprecedented value at the canneries of over £700,000. The salmon are of excellent quality. Their size, too, is great ; the tyhee, or spring salmon, sometimes run to 80 lbs. No wonder, then, that fishermen are being tempted from Scotland, as well as from the Atlantic seaboard of North America, to try their luck in the fecund, sheltered waters of British Columbia.

But let us glance at the condition of the Canadian fisheries generally. They are the largest in the world, and at present employ more than 70,000 men, whose operations range



From a photo by]

[S. J. Thompson.

A SALMON CANNERY ON THE FRASER.

over a coast-line on the Pacific of 7,181 miles (more than double the coast-line of the United Kingdom), and on the Atlantic 5,600 miles ; in addition, there are the Great Lakes and the innumerable other lakes and rivers. The

fisheries, therefore, are amply entitled to rank among the four main industries of the Dominion. The total catch sold on the market or for export in 1896 was valued at about £4,039,850. This figure implies, however, a decrease of about £100,000 on the '95 record, and is also lower than that of '93 and '94; but it shows a satisfactory advance on all former years, the '86 sale being valued at £3,735,850, the '76 at £2,229,518. The actual catch is considerably larger than these figures indicate, for you must add to it the home consumption, which did not get on the market. The Canadians are great fish eaters, their average annual per head consumption being put at 100 lbs.—England's is 30 lbs.—and the settlers, as well as the Indians throughout the Dominion, catch their own fish to a considerable extent. Correspondent with the growth during the last generation of fish takes in general, there has been a diminution in the mackerel fishery, which has declined from an annual average in

the period '63-'72 of 245,426 barrels to an average for the '90-'94 period of 97,236 barrels. But a salmon is a finer fish than a mackerel, and the salmon now heads the list of



From a photo by

[S. J. Thompson.

FISHING FLEET AT THE MOUTH OF THE FRASER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Canadian fish. In '96, for the first time, it beat cod, the take of which was valued at £758,000.

There is no space to chronicle all the fish which swim in Canadian waters, but the

sturgeon must be mentioned, if only for its weight. This royal fish is caught up to 1,000 lbs., though at present it yields barely £25,000 a year. Many an epicure, when relishing his "Russian caviare," is in reality indebted to the Canadian sturgeon for his dainty. The dog-fish is also worth naming, as it differs from the rest in being non-edible. Nevertheless, in British Columbia it is commercially second in importance to salmon. From it is extracted a valuable lubricating oil, which sells well in the Dominion. To the fishing proper must be added the seal catching. Fifty-five thousand six hundred and seventy-seven seals were landed at Victoria, out of a total for the whole Pacific catch, in 1896, of 119,210. The '96 figures represent about an average take for Canada, though the three previous years were considerably higher. The industry is at present declining, and last season's seal fleet in the Behring Sea was the smallest on record.

The Canadian Government is careful to

foster the Fisheries. It spends over £80,000 a year on them. It has a large staff of officers and fifty-five intelligence bureaux to look after the industry, armed cruisers to promenade the Atlantic coast and Great Lakes, and fish-breeding establishments, whence it distributes spawn. It offers £32,000 a year in bounties, and gives prizes for the best models of fishing vessels; and it has connected the principal fishing stations in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence by telegraphs and cables, so that "strikes" may be reported quickly, and fishermen (as the Canadian Hand Book explains) saved "days and nights of fruitless exposure and cold."

THE MINES

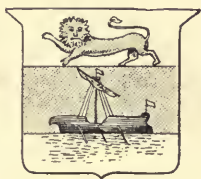
And Canada has stores of mineral wealth worthy her vast area. The mining boom is not always the healthy sign which the prevalence of the speculative spirit tends to make us imagine it. Mad rushes to the diggings

often retard the genuine settlement of a new country. The feverish dragging forth and exportation of the earth's treasures degenerates sometimes into a prodigal wasting of irreplaceable capital. England at the present time furnishes a melancholy instance of a country carelessly scattering the reserve store of wealth which Nature gave her, and in the process indirectly helping to ruin her reproductive industries. On the other hand, agriculture and other local industries, in undeveloped countries, get a certain stimulus from the advent of a mining population. And, after all, minerals, though the output is not to be abused, are to be used. Anyway, it is satisfactory to know that you have got them. So Canada is to be congratulated. The reports of her geological surveyors are like a dream after supping on tales of Oriental magnificence, save that the most imaginative Eastern mind would fail to grasp, in their almost unlimited profuseness, the gleaming splendours of Our Lady of

Snows. Canada is as the towering image of Nebuchadnezzar's vision, whose head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, and his feet part of iron and part of clay. True, she does not glitter with jewels, like her Australian sisters; but of the many metals, fine and base, and mineral substances which minister to men's use, she holds stores so great and so varied that statistical estimates are impossible. To make them would only lay oneself open to charges of exaggeration; while in reality the actual wealth, could it be ascertained, would probably convict the estimate of feeble futility to compass the treasure. Certain it is that Canada has not hitherto exceeded the rule of moderation in output. She has not, for a brief splendour, given up her all to the world. Her output hitherto has been comparatively small: without doubt the near future will see a wide expansion, and even then the limits of moderation need not be passed.

Let us speak first of her gold. The most casual of newspaper readers knows well by this time that the yellow god lies bound in the icy fastness of the far North-West. His limbs stretch far and wide over that desolate region. Experience and exploration so far have been very limited, but enough has been learned to make pertinent the paraphrase : Seek almost anywhere, and ye shall find him. It may not be contiguous to Dawson City or to the bed of Bonanza Creek that the greatest amount of gold lies. Only time and the pan and the pick will reveal the heart of the treasure ; but it is there—somewhere among those river beds and frost-bound rocks ; and the rush for Yukon by adventurous searchers for El Dorado is earnest that—though at the cost of human suffering and human lives—the fuller knowledge will soon be gained. More is known of the districts lying south of the Yukon mines, in the sense that prospecting and prospectuses are fortified by achievement.

In 1896, the output of gold from the North-West Territories and the Yukon district and Ontario was valued at 522,872 dollars, British Columbia's at 1,788,206 dollars; British Columbia's total from '62 to '96 is valued at 50,397,754 dollars. The output has declined since the earlier years of the period; but this does not mean exhaustion; only that the booms



NEW BRUNSWICK

elsewhere have for the moment drawn off both men and money, and that the time has arrived for dredging and other scientific methods of gold extraction which are necessary after the first easy crop has been gathered.

But Canada has not depended solely on the far North-West for her gold supply. Right on the hither side of the Continent,

in Nova Scotia, there proceeds a steady output of gold, which goes unregarded in the excitement of sensational booms in other lands. Yet Nova Scotia turned out 499,122 dollars' worth of gold in '96; a little above the average of the period since '62, the total output of which is valued at 12,369,779 dollars. Nova Scotia's auriferous area is computed at from 5,000 to 7,000 square miles; the districts at present operated do not exceed forty square miles; and the average annual output is 8,000 dollars per square mile.

But gold is going to be heard of from the Central Provinces also. The Rainy River district of Ontario—and there are others—is likewise gold bearing, though the ores appear to be low grade, and it will be exploited more vigorously than at present when Canadians in the East make up their minds to give honour to the metal in their own country. Gold-mining in Canada labours under the disadvantage of a rigorous winter. But, in

compensation, it has a water supply unequalled in any other part of the world. What would Westralian miners not give for the network of lakes and rivers and electric power-generating rapids which form a mesh through the gold area of Canada?

There only remains space for brief mention of two other of Canada's minerals—iron, namely, and nickel. In the province of Ontario alone there is every reason to believe that iron ore exists in wonderful profusion. In Northern Minnesota there is a range of ore so rich that it now leads the world's production; and there is little doubt but that this range extends through a considerable part of Ontario. Hitherto Canada's production has been hindered by two circumstances: the heavy import duties in the United States, where Canada looks for her chief market, and the lack of smelting works in the Dominion. The first cause will continue to operate; the second is in process of demolition, owing in no small

measure to the bounty aid to home production of pig-iron, etc., given by the Dominion and Provincial Governments. And why should not England buy her ore from Canada, instead of going to the foreigner? The largest order for iron ore ever given by one firm has recently been placed by an Englishman in Ohio. This is too bad, particularly in view of the Yankee tariff wall against Canada.

Nickel should have a big future. The Sudbury district of Ontario is becoming world-famous for its nickel, and, despite present lowness of price, a greatly enhanced and profitable output should be assured. New Caledonia is the only other country where nickel is found in any large quantity, and mechanical engineers are beginning to look upon nickel steel as of great value. It takes a fine polish and does not easily rust. Hence the United States Government is now using it for the armour plating of battleships, and England and other countries will probably soon follow. The

bicycle maker also has his eye on the new compound. One Yankee company used, in 1895, 400,000 lbs. of nickel in this form.

THE NEW INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

In attempting to estimate Canada's industrial possibilities, it is necessary to bear in mind the impending revolution in industry. The nineteenth century will be known to history as the Steam Age. During that period the country which possessed the best stores of coal was marked out by Nature to lead in the world's industry. (This, it may be parenthetically remarked, is the principal reason, rather than the free import system, why British industry received such a tremendous impetus in the early and middle years of this century.) But a new power is arising. The uses of electricity are becoming known to us, and it is fairly safe to prophesy that the twentieth century will be known as the Electrical Age.

The industrial future lies less with the countries which possess the raw material of steam power than with those which have electrical power. Now, the best and cheapest source of electricity is rushing water. Canada has more water power than any country in the world. It is reasonable, therefore, to predict that Canada will take a foremost place among the industrial nations.

? Already Canadians are beginning to make use of their water. A number of mills are being run by electricity thus generated ; towns are being lit by the aid of neighbouring rapids, and street cars run by the same means. Even heat is now being obtained from the same source. If you go to Ottawa in the winter, you will travel in street cars run by electricity, lit by electricity, heated (to an almost uncomfortable degree) by electricity, all given forth by the Chaudière Rapids, which flow by the city. Yet millions of gallons of water are rushing away unutilised all over Ontario and Quebec,

as well as in the far North-West. There is enough water power in the Dominion to run all its railways, to give light and heat to all its towns, to set all its mills at work, not only now, but when Canada's development shall become as great as that of the United States.



CHATS FALLS (THE HORSESHOE), AT FITZROY HARBOUR,
ON THE OTTAWA.

Indeed, electrical engineers can set no bounds to the amount of electrical power which Canada's waters are capable of generating. This fact has not been made much of hitherto. Practically none of the writings and speeches concerning Canada with which I am acquainted

take this great fact into consideration when estimating Canada's future ; yet it is a fact of the first importance. It seems hardly fanciful to look forward to a day when the poor old Mother Country, her coal resources squandered (for they are being squandered now by reckless colliery owners, who send a large part of the lavish output to the foreigner), will have to transfer the remnant of her industries to the vast estates of her daughter, and Canada, instead of Great Britain, will lead the world's wealth production.

Newfoundland

THIS inaptly named colony is among the oldest of them all. 'Twas in 1497 that John Cabot landed on Newfoundland's shores, and very shortly afterwards it was bruited abroad in the Old World that along the Newfoundland coast were swimming myriad shoals of cod-fish. At once fishermen from Europe began to hasten thither; for in those days, when the ordinances of the Catholic Church ruled generally in domestic life, fish was an even more important article of diet than it is now. The cod-fish made Newfoundland, and has remained her staple ever since. But the cod also retarded Newfoundland's development. The west country fishermen of England wished to keep the

Newfoundland waters as a private preserve—they did not want the place colonised—and their baneful efforts to check colonisation were so far successful that for long the English Government listened to their pleadings, and enacted laws which prevented settlement on the island. But England has ever been a harsh step-mother to Newfoundland, and the effects of her policy of repression are not only apparent in the Colony's backward state—she has to-day only 210,000 inhabitants; they even yet exist in the attitude of the Imperial Government. Newfoundland's bogey is France. France's sole remnant of North American dominion now consists in the possession of two tiny islands off the coast of Newfoundland, and she uses these islands as the basis of an inimical, vigorous, bounty-fed competition with the Colony's fisheries. Sir William Whiteway, the Premier of Newfoundland, has well described the treaties under which these islands were ceded to France as

infamous. France holds them (and pays dear for the privilege) simply to harass Newfoundland's staple industry. But this is not the worst instance of the Mother Country's harsh treatment of her daughter. The treaties also ceded to France fishing rights along a large part of the coast. True, they are only concurrent rights; but the French Government



persists in treating them as exclusive, and Downing Street submits to the unjust claim, sacrificing her Colony to avoid offending the Frenchmen's sentiments. In deference thereto the Imperial Government actually for years withheld its consent to Newfoundland's scheme for constructing a railway across the island,—a work absolutely necessary to the Colony's

development,—because the Frenchmen contended that the building of a railway station on the western coast would interfere with their fishing rights. The shriek of the locomotive, they said, would frighten their fish away! Happily, Downing Street has repented of this folly, and the railway is now constructed.

This railway should mark the beginning of Newfoundland's long-delayed development. At the present time the cod-fish rules the country's industry. Yet cod fishing, besides labouring under the disability of periodical bad seasons, seems about to have reached its zenith, and whatever increase there has been in recent years is not enough to keep pace with the natural increase in the population. There are, in addition, the allied industries of seal and lobster catching. But more is wanted; it is wanted because it can be obtained. This maligned country—it is about the size of Ireland—is capable of producing many things other than cod-fish, dogs, and

fogs. It can grow good grass, and can be made to support enough live stock for a healthy export trade. (At present it imports its meat.) There seems little doubt, either, that Newfoundland possesses considerable mineral resources. So far these are all but neglected. In 1894, the latest year for which returns are available, the total value of the



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

minerals produced was £88,003, made up of 33,742 tons of copper ore and regulus, and 40,782 tons of iron pyrites. Newfoundland now occupies the sixth place among the copper-producing countries of the world. When capital and enterprise have got over their shyness the colony should realise higher ambitions as a producer of mineral wealth. But

if she really wants to develop herself, and take her place among the prosperous and self-respecting provinces of the Empire, she had better betake herself, with her strip of Labrador coast, to the Canadian Confederation, and not continue to hold out for impossible terms of union. Unfortunately, the recent handing over of her most valuable asset—the railway—with land and other wealth, to a private monopolist will make her a less worthy acquisition to the Confederation, and render admission more difficult.

South Africa

THE gold-mines of Western Australia have brought about in that colony a phenomenal growth in population and trade during the last two or three years ; owing to the gold discoveries on the Yukon, the Far North-West is now fluttering with an abnormal boom ; but the section of the Empire which in the final decade of the nineteenth century has aroused much the greatest interest is that generically known as South Africa. The chief causes of this exceptional interest are gold, diamonds, bloodshed, Mr. Rider Haggard's romances, and the vagaries of "Uncle Paul." That is to say, the modern interest in South Africa has a sensational basis, and has been effected in part by circumstances

somewhat extraneous to the essentials of orderly industrial development. Moreover, the countries in South Africa which are attracting the most attention to-day are the outlying sections of the British Dominion there—Rhodesia, which is still in the embryonic stage of development by chartered company, and the Transvaal, a Republic over which the Queen of England exercises no more than a contested suzerainty. Following the programme hitherto adopted in this sketch of the Imperial Heritage, those divisions of South Africa may be eliminated from our present purview.

CAPE COLONY

There is a cosmopolitan air about the history of the Cape of Good Hope. A Portuguese, Bartholomew Diaz, discovered it unwittingly four centuries ago, and named it the Cape of Torments. In 1620, Englishmen

landed and took possession, though they did not remain to settle. Thirty years later the Dutchmen tried their luck, the Dutch East India Company taking possession of Table Bay, chiefly as a port of call on its Indian route. It also, however, started colonisation. From that time onward (as the English



Colonial Office knows to its sorrow) the Dutch element has been an integral and conspicuous element in South Africa.

Frenchmen also went there in a body, but not officially. It was a band of three hundred exiled Huguenots who, in the latter years of the seventeenth century, settled in the Berg

River Valley under the protection of the Dutch East India Company. But though this Company began South African colonisation, it does not appear to have made a great success of the business, and the Colony had got into a somewhat deplorable state when, in 1795, General Craig took forcible possession of it in the name of King George the Third. Eight years afterwards, at the Peace of Amiens, the Colony was restored to the Dutch, but only for a very brief period; Sir David Baird again took possession on behalf of England on January 19th, 1806. In case Little Englanders and our foreign friends should see in this forcible planting of the Union Jack cause for adverse moralising, let them remember, in mitigation of our offence, that one of England's first acts after taking the country was to abolish slavery therein, a course, by the bye, which roused fierce wrath among the pious Dutch Boers. British colonisation practically dates from 1820, when 4,000

settlers, aided by an Imperial Government grant of £50,000, landed at Algoa Bay. It is not my purpose to follow the chequered and bloodstained political fortunes of the Cape, or



From a photo by]

[W. H. Hazell.

CAPE TOWN, WITH TABLE MOUNTAIN IN THE DISTANCE.

to enumerate the fresh acquisitions of territory whereby from time to time the Colony's boundaries were enlarged. Suffice it to say that in the work of South African colonisation

neither money nor men's lives have been spared. We have paid a heavy price for South Africa.

It may be objected that the lives of natives have also been sacrificed somewhat prodigally ; but the defender of England has an effective reply to the insinuation. Statistical returns show that the native population has grown most satisfactorily under British rule ; and considering the bloodthirsty and pugnacious habits of many of these natives when left to themselves, it may fairly be stated that they would have been less numerous and prosperous to-day, had England kept away from the Cape. Among the inhabitants appearing in the Cape population returns as "other than European" the numbers increased from 484,201 in 1875, to 619,547 in 1891 ; in the section termed Griqualand West, the increase was from 32,903 in 1877, to 53,705 ; in the Transkeian Territories, from 260,417 in 1879, to 476,985. The total European population of the colony, with

these two added districts, was, according to the 1891 census, 376,987.

The total area of the colony, including British Bechuanaland, is 177,004,320 acres, whereof no less than 126,145,704 acres have been disposed of. Cape Colony, therefore, wears a settled air when compared with the vast areas of Australia and Canada awaiting the farmer. But, leaving comparisons, and regarding the actual area yet unalienated, it will be seen that there is still room for new settlers, for the unalienated lands comprise an area not far short of the total acreage of Great Britain.

Industrial statistics are hard to come by in Cape Colony, and the compiler of the Statistical Register laments the difficulty he experiences in getting returns. According to the latest available, it appears that during the last census year (ending March 31st, 1891) 80,360 tons of flour and meal were produced in the Cape mills; 2,615,588 gallons of beer

were brewed ; 493,638 lbs. of tobacco, 104,114 lbs. of snuff, and 3,835,824 cigars were manufactured ; 336,752 lbs. of candles were made ; 335,311 gallons of spirits were distilled ; and 24,362,446 bricks were baked. If to these productions be added the output of tanneries, fellmongeries and woolwasheries, and wagon and cart works, we find that the total approximate value of the output was £9,238,870.

Later information exists with respect to the Cape's mineral output, the total value of which, in 1895, was £5,307,156. Asbestos, coal, copper ore, gold, salt, and other minerals contribute to this sum, but only in comparatively small amounts ; by far the greater part of it was furnished by diamonds, the output of which reached a value of £4,775,016.

But though diamonds make such an attractive glitter in the list of the Cape's industries, agricultural and pastoral pursuits must not be overlooked. Over 2 million bushels of wheat were produced in 1896, over $5\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels

of other grains, nearly 36 million bundles of hay, and over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million lbs. of tobacco. The Colony carried 14,409,434 sheep, and the wool production reached a total weight of 45,521,508 lbs. ; in addition, 7,210,915 lbs. of mohair were produced, 294,478 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of ostrich feathers, 3,204,440 lbs. of butter, and 49,470 lbs. of cheese.

Cape Colony has also a reputation for fruits. Excepting vines, peach trees occupy the largest space. From the vineyards were produced, in the '95-'96 season, 1,636,566 lbs. of raisins, 5,687,224 gallons of wine, and 1,264,512 gallons of brandy.

Nor is the Cape Government unmindful of the claims of agriculture on its regard. A Department of Agriculture was formed in 1887, and in '93 a Minister of Agriculture was appointed. The Government has also appointed two agricultural schools. This attention to productive rural industry is a more encouraging item in Cape Colony's prospects than is

the dazzle of the Kimberley diamond fields, even though their store were increased ten-fold.

NATAL

Natal cannot claim high rank among the self-governing Colonies. It may be doubted whether the honour of separate self-government would have been conferred upon it at all had not peculiar political and racial considerations induced the gift. The Colony's origin was the secession of discontented Dutchmen from the Cape; the proclamation, in 1843 (a few years after the first settlement at Pietermaritzburg), of the district as a British Colony, combined with the inimical local feeling thereby called forth, obviously suggested the appropriateness of granting independent legislative powers. These date from 1856. It was a time when Colonial self-governing ordinances were much the fashion in Downing Street,

and, were it possible to forget the miserable motive and theory which underlay the policy, we should be glad to remember the one sign of a decent attitude towards her children which the Home Government adopted in the middle Victorian period. Certainly England has had no reason to regret the gift of semi-independ-



ence to Natal. The Colony, though its population is heterogeneous, has been, since the early troublesome days, steadily loyal to the Empire.

The area of Natal proper comprises about 20,000 square miles, or say 12,000,000 acres, whereof about 2,000,000 acres have been given

to the natives.* These natives form the bulk of the population; their number is estimated at from 650,000 to 700,000. The white population, composed chiefly of English, Dutch, and Germans, numbers between 50,000 and 60,000, and there are about 50,000 Indians, imported by the Government for the performance of certain of the coarser kinds of labour. The country is well watered,—from a landscape painter's point of view magnificently watered,—but all the rivers save two (and these for only a few miles of their course) are useless from the navigator's standpoint. Many of the beautiful waterfalls and cascades, which make a gleaming network of the country, will probably some day be found invaluable for the generation of electrical power; but they render the watercourses quite ineffective as means of transport. For this the Colony has to depend

* The new acquisition of Zululand brings the Colony's total area up to 35,000 square miles.

partly on its coast-line (whereof there is one mile to every 118 miles of superficial area), partly on its State railway system, which is



Photo by

[W. H. Hazell.

HOWICK FALLS, NEAR PIETERMARITZBURG.

already 466 miles in length, and is "still growing" both in mileage and prosperity; and for the rest on the coach and wagon roads which

intersect the country in divers much-needed places.

Natal depends in the main for its wealth on agricultural industries—using the word agriculture in its widest sense. Its capacities in this direction are at present, notwithstanding the Colony's half-century of life, very far from being fully exploited. There still remain in the hands of the Crown about 1,380,000 acres (valued at 10s. an acre). The area under cultivation is about 320,000 acres, of which about a quarter is properly cultivated by the white population. The rest is tilled in rudimentary and intermittent fashion by the natives, their favourite crops being maize and Kaffir corn. Second in importance to these grains is the sugar cane, to which are devoted about 36,000 acres. It is not a large area, but the cultivation is worth notice as a reminder that the West Indian Colonies do not monopolise the dubious privilege of growing sugar cane. In many other parts of the Empire, besides those

distressful islands, the Empire's sons are devoting themselves to a branch of industry which should be profitable, but is rendered precarious and too often ruinous owing to the pusil-



From a photo by]

[W. H. Hazell.

ENGLISH TEA-PLANTING AT NATAL.

lanimity of the Home Government in the face of bounty-fed beet sugar. Natal, however, is intelligent enough to protect her home-market by import duties.

Natal also means entering the world market as a tea planter. Already some 2,500 acres have been planted, and the estimated return on the proportion of them bearing was, for the year 1894-5, 800,000 lbs. This industry should have a good future. The tea planters at present under way appear to be thriving, and the industry is particularly well worth the attention of men whose capital is not large. Natal also grows, or might grow, other products which pertain to sub-tropical climates. Oranges, for example, are now being cultivated, and a beginning has been made with rice. This latter industry should certainly be prosecuted with more vigour, for rice grows well in certain parts of Natal, and the Indian population would provide a good home market. At present the rice consumed in Natal is mostly imported. Bananas and pine apples are being grown in the Colony, and pay well.

Another product to which Natalians are turning their attention, and are likely to do

so increasingly in the future, is the cultivation of the wattle. As I have already said, when speaking of this industry in reference to Australia, the wattle tree is eminently suited



From a photo by]

[W. H. Hazell.

THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE, PRETORIA.

to certain sandy soils which might else be regarded as useless. By the cultivation of the wattle they may become very profitable. The bark, when sold to the tanners, will pro-

duce £20 an acre (some consider this estimate too low); there still remains the wood, which is of commercial value to the tune of from £15 to £20 an acre; and, finally, the wattle blossoms can be used in the manufacture of scent. This is not a bad return for a cheap cultivation on cheap lands, and the industry should make big strides. At present the yearly value of Natal's bark output is between twelve and thirteen thousand pounds. There are various other rural industries awaiting development in Natal, particularly the cultivation of sisal hemp.

Natal has some claim for consideration as a wool country. It carries about 950,000 sheep, and the export of wool attains an annual bulk of nearly 18,000,000 lbs., worth about £440,000.

In respect to minerals, Natal is largely a country of possibilities. Gold is being prospected for on her borders, but at present the neighbouring Transvaal overshadows

Natal's pretensions to wealth in this direction. She is doing better with her coalfields. The output of coal is growing, and reached for the year '94-95 a total weight of 151,520 tons, valued at £75,760. Across the border, too,



From a photo by]

[W. H. Hazel]

DIAMOND SORTERS AT THE KIMBERLEY MINE.

in Zululand, promising coalfields are being discovered, and if the proposal to utilise the mouth of the Umhlatuzi River as a harbour for coal shipments to Durban be carried out, another valuable source of this mineral will

doubtless be tapped. The only other mineral which Natal at present produces to any extent is silver lead ore. The value of the '95 output was £29,378. There seems every reason to believe that the country is full of iron ore, and it is said that one mountain is just a mass of specular and magnetic iron ore. So far, however, the iron treasure in Natal remains intact. Perhaps the opening out of the coalfields and the consequent convenience for smelting works will lead to its exploitation.

The Indies

MY glance round the provinces of the Empire is finished. It is an incomplete glance ; I have said nothing about the Crown Colonies or about our great possessions in India. This last magnificent jewel in the British Crown could not be even most cursorily described in the space remaining at my disposal. It would anyway require such distinct and separate treatment as to take it out of our present purview. At the same time it must never be lost sight of when we attempt to estimate the magnificence of the Imperial Heritage. To win it and to keep it, English blood has been shed without stint ; only last year added to the volume of the sacrificial stream. Our work in India has

been rather that of conquerors than of colonists, yet we have done much of the work of colonisation here also. Before we went there India had a teeming population, and agriculture and many industrial arts flourished; yet British government and the inflow of British capital and the immigration of British manufacturers and merchants must count for much in the development of India's resources. We have conquered, but we have not forgotten to colonise; and critics who complain that we take more profit out of the country than we have a right to take should demonstrate how India would be any better off than she is now—or as well—if the country were left bare to the rapacity of native rulers, or handed over to the tender mercies of the Muscovites. 'Tis a heavy responsibility which England has assumed in bringing under her charge the 220,000,000 souls who inhabit the Hindustan Peninsula; but the individual who endeavours to sow sedition against that rule,

because of certain defects or alleged defects in it, incurs a responsibility no less great.

A general view of the Crown Colonies adds to the impression of the Empire's greatness ; considered in detail the picture loses some of its rosy colour. Turn from the East to the West Indies, and you are confronted with a set of Colonies whose prospects are as black as those of other parts of the Empire are brilliant. They are among the oldest of England's possessions over-seas ; they are by far the least prosperous. Indeed, the word "prosperity," used in connection with the West Indies, is a word of mockery. The contrast between the wretched state of these dependencies of the British Crown and the magnificent prospects of the other Colonies, particularly those which have self-government, makes the lot of the West Indies appear specially hard ; and their case is all the more poignant in view of the fact that their miserable condition is the meed of

loyalty to England. One would like to find an escape from such a disagreeable slur on the Empire, but truth forces the confession that had the West Indies gone the way of the other British Colonies in the southern half of North America, and thrown off their allegiance, they would to-day be counted among the Fortunate Islands of the earth, instead of being the Isles of Despair. The United States would never have abandoned a portion of their Republic to ruin just for the purpose of obeying to the last letter a foolish economic dogma.

That is what England has done. Her statesmen have lacked the small amount of courage necessary to countervail the Continental sugar bounties, by whose operations the cane plantations of the West Indies are being crushed to death under the heels of a most unfair competition. And the only practical argument which these statesmen have been able to devise for a cloak to their cowar-

dice and fetish-like devotion to a fanciful theory has been a base appeal to the cupidity of the English people. "Put up with the bounties, and have your sugar a farthing a pound cheaper. What matter though you destroy a handful of old and foolishly loyal Colonies? A farthing saved and a theory gained is all you need trouble about." Thus have treacherous statesmen and false economic prophets argued for a generation, until the abandonment of fertile fields, the ruin of colonists, starvation and anarchy among the native population, have become the ordinary description of industry in the West Indies. Last year the present Government aroused itself to the point of sending a Commission to the West Indies to investigate a question whose answer was already patent to every one, in the hope that it would find some plausible excuse for the Government's continued evasion of its duty. The report of the Commission made plainer than ever the abso-

lute need for countervailing duties if the Colonies were to be saved. Failing the British Government's performance of its duties, the West Indies have only one chance of salvation remaining — the transfer of their allegiance to the United States. The matter would quickly be put right then. But the Government which allows this bait to dally before the eyes of the wretched and desperate West Indians will have a very serious score to settle in history, even though the short-sighted craze for cheapness-at-all-hazards is so universally present in England to-day that Ministers escape condemnation in their own time.

The Shadows in the Picture

THE Empire's future is full of magnificent possibilities ; great developments of the Heritage are certain to come. Yet there are dangers in the path, and it would be folly to ignore them, even when one is revelling in an enthusiasm which the contemplation of the Empire's possibilities engenders—perhaps most of all then. There are three which I would select for brief mention.

First, there is the growing tendency in the Daughter States, as in the Mother Country, to leave the country life and to crowd into cities. But the position of Mother Country and Daughter States in this matter is altogether different. Economic necessity drives

the Briton at home into big cities. In the Daughter Provinces, on the other hand, there is every economic reason why a man should not leave the country side. Rich virgin lands are crying out for tillage; boundless forests await in silence the ring of the lumberman's axe; vast plains call to the sheep farmer and the ranchman to bring their flocks and herds. The cities, on the other hand, comparatively small though they usually are, yet give signs of being overcrowded. In Colonial cities the unemployed spectre stalks grimly, not much less frequently than in England. The professions are over-stocked, and emigration agencies beg clerks and the like to stay away from the Colonies. Nevertheless, men who go out from the Old Country all too often stop in the cities, instead of taking up their residence and work on land which would be sold to them very cheaply or perhaps given to them free. In like manner sons of homesteaders in the Colonies commonly drift to the

towns, to struggle in some "profession" or mercantile pursuit, feeling themselves altogether too genteel to handle the plough or the hay-fork. Doubtless the gregarious instinct and the fascination of the pavement have also much to do with the growth of this tendency; but whatever be the cause, the result cannot but be disastrous to the best interests of the Empire. The notion may not be quite within the range of practical politics, but it would be an excellent thing to have an agricultural conscription, after the manner of the European army conscription, and send every young man to rural occupation for at least seven years.

The second danger to which I would refer is the industrial competition of the foreigner. Foreign competition, however, is so large and so complex a matter that I could not hope to treat it adequately here. Still, it needs to be kept in view; for the extent to which the foreigner is creeping into Colonial markets is

giving rise to great and well-grounded uneasiness. The matter last year was made the subject of a voluminous Blue Book, wherein were published despatches from the Colonial Governors, showing that in practically all cases the foreigner was seriously encroaching on Colonial markets. The statistics adduced in proof are not quite up to date, as they only carry us down to 1894, but that year is not too remote to be useful, and the examination of some later figures has convinced me that the position has not become less alarming since 1894. The Blue Book makes comparisons between 1884 and 1894, and the summary of them proves that the total imports into the Colonies increased in that period by 1 per cent., but the foreign proportion of these imports increased by about 20 per cent.; and even if a three years' average be taken, in place of single years, the figures still show very badly, 3 per cent. is the total increase, 18 per cent. the foreign. But the actual growth of

foreign competition is yet greater than the figures disclose ; the returns on which they are based only give the port of shipment, and consequently foreign-made goods reaching the



From a photo by

[W. H. Hazell.

A GROUP OF BASUTO WOMEN AND BOYS.

Colonies *viâ* London are credited to British manufacture.

The Colonies are not to blame for this desertion of the Mother Country. True—with the most honourable exception of Canada—

they tax British imports as heavily as foreign but they have an adequate excuse : England admits foreign imports as freely as Colonial. The present trend of trade shows the urgent necessity for a Customs Union, based on a preferential tariff within the Empire. 'Twould be desirable in any event thus to cement the family tie ; Mr. Chamberlain's Blue Book demonstrates that the course is imperative now. If additional evidence were needed it would be found in the many disadvantages (in respect to freight, etc.) under which British manufacturers labour in their attempt to hold the Inter - Imperial markets against the foreigner. Still, British manufacturers must remember that the absence of preferential trading arrangements does not altogether explain the decline. They have much to answer for themselves. They do not push hard enough to enable them to hold their own in the struggling crowd of competitors ; they are not keen to adapt themselves to their markets.

Let us have Imperialism by all means ; but let us also have a due meed of business common-sense ; else Imperialism on its commercial side will never be fully realised.

The Gold Fever is the third danger to which the Empire is exposed. It does not, of course, appertain exclusively to the British Empire ; but as the greater part of the world's auriferous area lies within the Empire's bounds, and certainly the greater part of that which is being most actively prospected at the present time, the peril menaces us in a special degree. In the foregoing pages I have avoided laying more stress than I could help on the auriferous and argentiferous and other similar mineral deposits of the Colonies dealt with ; not because of any doubt of the existence of the treasures, but because I decline to admit them as wealth in the best sense of the word, and because I believe the craze for getting them is an evil in both a national and an individual view.

We want gold for money purposes in the

country, 'tis true, and plenty of it, just because it is so precious, and so valuable as a means of stimulating wealth production, and giving the country which possesses it a great economic power. But we do not want to diminish its power by flooding the world with it. Moreover it should be remembered that, as an article of consumption, gold is only a minor form of wealth. It fills no stomachs; it protects no man from the inclemency of the air; as a thing of beauty or an addition to the joys of life it is not of major importance.

Gold is not perishable, the leakage of waste must be very slight, and a big increase in the out-put will rob it of the special value for which it is cherished.

Yet who regards it in this light? Certainly not those responsible for Colonial Government statistics. When, in their Handbooks and Yearbooks, they enumerate by divisions their Colonies' varied forms of wealth, how careful are they to impress upon the reader

the extent of their auriferous areas ! how they chuckle over the increased outputs ! They tabulate their agricultural wealth, their forest wealth, their fisheries, and their budding manufactures ; but it is when they come to



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[W. H. Hazell.

BULLOCK WAGONS OUTSPANNED AT BLOEMFONTEIN.

their “mineral wealth” that their statistical and patriotic enthusiasm reaches its highest pitch, and even there it is on the gold and silver, rather than the coal and granite, that the enthusiasm most gloatingly disports itself ; and in proportion as they can adduce large

actual and prospective outputs, they appeal with gleeful confidence to the world's regard. They care less for proving to the world their ability to feed and clothe it, and fill it with beauty and delight, than they care for appealing to the gambling instincts of men : for that is simply what the gold craze means. A man hopes, by enduring hardships and privations for a season, or by risking his savings (as the case may be) to acquire a fortune more quickly than he could hope to do by following some genuine productive industry ; and that is gambling in its essence. In this, too, as in other forms of the vice, the gambler more often loses than wins ; and Governments, which are the trustees of the State's best interests, should no more encourage this particular form of gambling than any other. We should think it odd if the Queensland Government were to count a State lottery among its wealth productions, or the Canadian Government to put "Excellent opportunities

for poker" in a conspicuous place on the list of the Dominion's inducements to the emigrant. The dissimilarity at root is not so great.

I admit there is one argument tending towards a different conclusion. Gold-mining sometimes hastens a country's development. Australia and the Cape show that this argument is not without foundation. Just as the Victorian farmers of a generation ago were in not a few cases men who had been enticed from the Old Country by the El Dorado of Ballarat, and, failing to make fortunes, remained to till the land in which they had been grubbing for gold ; so it is fair to argue that the same economic processes obtain in other parts of the Empire. But, granting all the legitimate force possible to this argument, I do not think that on the balance it can be shown that the spasmodic attraction of a crowd of all sorts and conditions of men—usually of the inferior sorts and conditions—can be compared, in a statesmanlike view, to the slower

but more orderly development of the country by a better class of men, as is the case when emigrants seek the gold of the harvest-field, rather than the will-o'-the-wisp which flits around Bonanza Creeks and arid or icy fastnesses.

The Colonial Governments should remember that, as a general rule, the hunt for gold means the neglect of their undeveloped lands, and the immigration of a class of settlers who are unlikely to contribute much to the permanent development of the country. Colonial citizens should beware of putting into power politicians who are actively interested in mining speculations. Men desirous of earning a competence should consider whether it would not be better to seek it in the healthful occupations of rural life, preferably to the heart-wearying, often heart-breaking, pursuit of the glittering treasure which Mother Earth has hidden from her sons' eyes, and locked away from their grasp. Investors should re-

member that not one mine out of a hundred staked out gives back even a respectable proportion of the gold which is put into it; and that if they speculate at all in mines, they should risk no more money than they would be prepared to lose at a game of cards.

It is the old story of the Nibelung's Ring. The gleaming gold enchains men's desires; and it is the cause of half the world's woe. I am not a moralist, and am not urging the point with a metaphorical meaning. I do but ask all who are interested in the future of the Empire to consider whether, even in a literal and industrial sense, the truth of the old Norse legend does not receive a new application in the modern mad quest of gold.

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